

ACTS AND PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
COETUS AND SYNOD
OF THE
German Reformed Church
in the
United States
from 1791 to 1816 inclusive

TRANSLATED FROM THE GERMAN

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ZION'S REFORMED CHURCH, ALLENTOWN, PA.
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The following Minutes of Coetus and Synod from 1791 to 1816 were printed in the German Reformed Messenger in 1854 beginning with the issue dated July 12th where the following statement is found:

“According to promise, we commence this week to publish a translation of the unpublished minutes of the Synod of the German Reformed Church, as far back as these records have been preserved. We purpose making the translation as literal as possible, and shall also strike off several hundred copies in book form. Doubtless many of the ministry and members of the Church will desire to have them in a more permanent form than that of a newspaper; and it is to meet the wishes of such, that we have concluded to publish them in a volume. We will be glad to receive orders for them, which also shall be promptly filled.”

—*Editors of the Messenger.*

Very few of these copies, in pamphlet form, can now be located. Dr. J. M. S. Isenberg presented a typewritten copy of these Minutes to Synod in 1928, the gift of Dr. Henry T. Spangler. This copy was compared with the translation as found in the Messenger in 1854 and with the pamphlet copy now in the possession of the Stated Clerk. All of them were found to be virtually identical. The Minutes, as here reprinted, have been copied from the aforementioned pamphlet copy and 400 separate copies printed and bound in accordance with the instruction of the Reverend Eastern Synod of 1930.

J. RAUCH STEIN, *Stated Clerk.*

MINUTES OF 1791.

The Reverend Coetus convened in the town of Lancaster on the 27th of June, 1791.

The ministers present were:

D.D., W. Hendel,	minister at	Lancaster,
W. Otterbein,	"	Baltimore,
F. Dellicker,	"	Falconer Swamp,
A. Blumer,	"	Northampton,
J. H. Helffrich,	"	Maccungie,
C. Gobrecht,	"	Meccalister,*
W. Runkel,	"	Fredericktown,
A. Hautz,	"	Harrisburg,
W. Weber,	"	Westmoreland,
G. A. Güting,	"	Antietam,
J. G. Droidenier,	"	Gettysburg,
D. Wagner,	"	Tolpenhocken.
The absentees were:		
Domine Winckhaus,	"	Philadelphia,
" Herman,	"	Germantown,
" Pomp,	"	Indianfield,
" Wack,	"	Rockaway,
" Dubendorf,	"	Carlisle.

Inasmuch as Domine Pomp, the Secretary of last year, was not present, the ministers assembled elected the Rev. Dr. Hendel, *President*, and Rev. D. Wagner, *Secretary*; and the Coetus was thereupon opened with a sermon by the Secretary from the words in 1 Cor. 1: 18.

SESSIO PRIMA.

ARTICLE 1.

At 2 o'clock in the afternoon the ministers, together with the delegated elders, assembled in the schoolhouse, and after prayer had been offered, reports were made as to the condition of the congregations. From these it appeared, that, for the most part, peace and unity prevailed in the congregations, and there is an encouraging prospect that the kingdom of Christ will grow and piety increase.

* Hanover, York county, Pa.

ARTICLE 2.

A request to the Rev. Coetus, from Augusta county, Virginia, to be furnished with several ministers, was read, and as it was expected that a number of ministers would soon arrive from Europe, it was resolved that in case two ministers arrive, one of them shall be sent to Virginia; but should there so many arrive that two can be sent thither, it shall be done.

ARTICLE 3.

As the Rev. Coetus has received no reply from their Rev. Fathers, in reference to the ordination of Messrs. J. Philip Stock and Jonathan Rahauser, and the circumstances of the congregations were very pressing, it was resolved that both these gentlemen be ordained, which ordination accordingly took place the same evening.

ARTICLE 4.

The following vacant congregations, at their own request, obtained permission to call ministers from members of the Rev. Coetus: Baltimore, Hagerstown, Shippensburg, Saucon and Springfield.

SESSIO SECUNDA.

ARTICLE 1.

On the 28th, at 9 o'clock, the ministers and elders again assembled in the schoolhouse. A delegate from Philadelphia then appeared, and reported that Domine Winckhaus was prevented by sickness from being present at the Coetus, and that the condition of the congregation is peaceful and encouraging.

ARTICLE 2.

A delegate from the congregation in Plainfield appeared, and reported that it was the desire of the congregation to call Domine Weber as their pastor. As, however, this congregation has hitherto stood connected with the congregation at Easton, and no delegate was present from the latter congregation, it was resolved to postpone the consideration of the subject until the next Coetus.

ARTICLE 3.

It was resolved, that the Coetus has the right at all times to examine and ordain those who offer themselves as candidates for the ministry, without asking or waiting for permission to do so, from the Fathers in Holland.

ARTICLE 4.

It was resolved that the Coetus each time furnish the Rev. Fathers with a report of their proceedings, accompanied with suitable explanations, when it is necessary.

ARTICLE 5.

A letter from a committee of the ministers in Massachusetts assembled in Boston, on the 24th of June, 1790, was read. It stated that they had sent a petition to the Congress of the United States, asking it to see to it, that no edition of the Bible is published in these States, without first having been subjected to a close examination as to its correctness; and requesting that other religious societies also should do the same. As it is of the greatest importance, that the word of God should be preserved pure and unadulterated in these States, it was resolved, in case Congress has not yet done any thing in this matter, to follow the Christian example of our brethren in Massachusetts, and to send up petitions also on the subject.

ARTICLE 6.

Resolved that the next Coetus be held on the fourth Sunday after Easter in the coming year, in Philadelphia.

Here follows in the original the subscription of all the names of the ministers and elders present. This, however, is a true copy of the original.

 MINUTES OF 1792.

Right Reverend, Very learned Sirs and Highly esteemed brethren in Christ our Lord.

In consequence of the relation in which we stand to your Right Reverences, we regard it as necessary to transmit to you, our *Acta Coetue Pennsylvaniensis*, of the present year, which were had in Philadelphia on the 6th and 7th of May, 1792; in which place the Reverend ministers, with their delegated elders, assembled on Saturday the 5th of May, and attended divine service on the following Sabbath. On the following Monday the Coetus was opened by the Rev. D. Wagner, the President of the present year, with a very edifying and appropriate sermon, from 2 Cor. 4: 6; and Domine Winckhaus was elected Secretary.

The following ministers were in attendance on the Coetus:

D.D., Wm. Hendel,	minister at	Lancaster,
Abraham Blumer,	"	Northampton,
Nicholas Pomp,	"	Indianfield,
D. Wagner,	"	Tolpenhocken,
Henry Helffrich,	"	Maccungie,
J. G. Troltenier,	"	Baltimore,
Frederick Hermann,	"	Germantown,
Caspar Wack,	"	Rockaway,
Wm. Runkel,	"	Fredericktown,

Domine Stock,	minister at	Shippensburg,
Domine Hautz,	"	Harrisburg,
Jonathan Rahauser,	"	Hagerstown,
J. Herman Winckhaus,	"	Philadelphia.

The following ministers were absent:

Domine Frederick Delicker,	"	Falconer Swamp,
William Otterbein,	"	Baltimore,
Domine Dubendorf,	"	Carlisle,
J. Christopher Gobrecht,	minister at	Meccallister
W. Weber,	"	Pittsburg,
G. A. Güting,	"	Antietam.

SESSIO PRIMA.

§1.) The ministers present, together with their respective delegated elders, assembled in the schoolhouse at 2 o'clock. The President opened the meeting with an appropriate prayer; enquired of the ministers and elders present how matters stood in an external point of view with their respective ecclesiastical organizations, and what progress in true Christianity had been thus far effected in their congregations by means of their office, and all the reports handed in united with great pleasure in testifying, that external quiet and peace prevail in the congregations, and that the office which proclaims reconciliation, had not been altogether without fruit and effects.

§2.) The united congregations in Lower Saucon and Springfield townships, which were formerly served by Domine Winckhaus, presented a call addressed to the Candidate Mann, with the request that he be ordained to the ministerial office as soon as possible; which, however, was laid over for mature consideration.

§3.) The congregations in Easton, Greenwich, Dryland and Plainfield, also presented a call to the Rev. Coetus, with the request to provide them with a well qualified preacher as soon as possible, whereupon it was resolved that they have permission to elect a preacher from our midst.

§4.) One of the elders present from the Old and New Goshenhoppen congregations presented a call addressed to Mr. John Faber, son of the late Rev. Mr. Faber, with the request to examine him and set him apart to the ministerial office. The Rev. Coetus resolved to accede to this request, and appointed Domines Hendel, Helffrich and Pomp a committee of examination with instructions to proceed with the examination on the following morning.

§5.) A member of the Rev. Coetus stated that it was very desirable to have certain fixed rules introduced, which shall specifically define the way and manner of conducting the business of the Coetus, as also the duties of each individual member thereof, &c., in order that this Rev. ministerial association may be united by closer bonds in sincere brotherly love. It was, therefore, resolved

to prepare fundamental rules of the nature spoken of, and Domines Pomp and Blumer were appointed to attend to this duty and report at the next meeting of the Coetus.

§6.) Domine Herman stated that young Samuel Weiberg had been for some time past instructed by him in the sciences connected with theology, and purposed offering himself for examination during the coming year; and requested that the student referred to might be ordained to the ministry after he has passed a satisfactory examination, which request was granted by the Rev. Coetus.

§7.) A letter was received from the Rev. Dr. Gross of New York in which he stated, that the son of the Rev. Domine Hendel, Mr. Wm. Hendel, had pursued his theological studies under his direction to such an extent as to be able not only to preach with great acceptance, but also, to undergo a rigorous examination, and therefore requested the Rev. Coetus to appoint a committee to attend to this examination in the middle of October; whereupon it was resolved to grant this request, and Domines Blumer, Pomp and Helffrich, were appointed the committee of examination.

§8.) Domine Stock reported, that he had received a call from the united congregations of Shippensburg, Chambersburg and Sherer's to become their pastor, but that he was resolved not to decide in this matter until he had first obtained the views of his Rev. brethren in reference to it. After a full consideration of all the circumstances, it was resolved by them, that Domine Stock have permission to accept the call and proceed to those congregations.

SESSIO SECUNDA.

§1.) On the morning of the 7th of May, at 9 o'clock, the ministers with their respective elders, again assembled in the school-house. The request of the congregations of Lower Saucon and Springfield townships in reference to the Candidate Mann, was taken up, and it was resolved by the Rev. Coetus, that after the close of the session, a *tentamen* in regard to the fundamental doctrines of our Reformed Church based on the word of God, be had with Mr. Mann, which shall be conducted by the committee appointed to examine Mr. Faber.

§2.) The committee just referred to, Domines Hendel, Pomp, Helffrich and Blumer, made a report in reference to the examination of Mr. Faber, and stated that he had not given such satisfactory answers as they had expected from him to the dogmatical questions proposed. Still out of regard to the Goshenhoppen congregations and his widowed mother, the examination was approved by a majority of votes, and it was resolved that Domines Pomp, Delicker, Helffrich and Blumer, be a committee to ordain him as soon as possible.

§3.) The Rev. Mr. Pauli from the Worcester and Whitpain congregations, who had received ordination several years ago already,

requested the Rev. Coetus to receive him as a member, which request was unanimously acceded to, and he accordingly admitted to a seat and a vote.

SESSIO TERTIA.

§1.) The committee appointed at the previous session to hold a *tentamen* with the Candidate Mann, in reference to the most important fundamental doctrines of our religion, reported that the *tentamen* resulted fully to their satisfaction, and that Mr. Mann was found to be not only well grounded in theological sciences, but also pure in the doctrines of the Church. The Rev. Coetus thereupon resolved, that Domines Blumer and Helffrich be authorized to ordain him at such a time as they shall appoint.

§2.) As there was no further business to transact, it was, in reference to the question, Where shall the next annual meeting of the Coetus be held? resolved unanimously, that the next annual meeting be held at Lancaster, on the fourth Sunday after Easter. The Rev. President thereupon dismissed the Coetus with prayer; and the brethren separated in the midst of feelings of cordial love.

Here follows in the original the subscription of the names of all the ministers and elders present. This, however, is a true copy of the original.

MINUTES OF 1793.

In accordance with the resolution of the last annual meeting of the Coetus at Philadelphia, the ministers with their delegated elders assembled in Lancaster, Pa., on the 27th of April, 1793. On the Sunday following, a very edifying and appropriate sermon was preached by the President of the Coetus, Domine Winckhaus, from 1 Cor. 15: 58.

On the Monday following, the 29th of April, the Rev. Coetus assembled in the schoolhouse in this place. The members present were:

Domine Hendel, D.D.,	minister at	Lancaster,
“ Helffrich,	“	Maccungie,
“ Runkel,	“	Fredericktown,
“ Pauli,	“	Reading,
“ Rahauser,	“	Hagerstown,
“ Faber,	“	Goshenhoppen,
“ Mann,	“	Lower Saucon,
“ Wagner,	“	Tolpenhocken,
“ Winckhaus,	“	Philadelphia,
“ Wack,	“	Rockaway,
“ Stock,	“	Shippensburg,
“ Hautz,	“	Harrisburg,
“ Gobrecht,	“	Maccallister.

The absentees were as follows:

Domine Dellicker,	minister at	Falconer Swamp,
" Otterbein,	"	Baltimore,
" Trolltenier,	"	Baltimore,
" Dubendorf,	"	Carlisle,
" Weber,	"	Pittsburg,
" Pomp,	"	Indianfield,
" Güting,	"	Antietam,
" Blumer,	"	Northampton,
" Herman,	"	Germantown.

SESSIO PRIMA.

§1.) The Rev. Mr. Winckhaus opened the meeting with a very appropriate prayer and then took his seat as President, and Domine Wack was chosen Secretary. The President proposed the usual questions to the ministers and elders present, as to the external as well as the internal condition of their congregations, and all the reports made united in stating, that outward peace and harmony prevail in the churches, and that the office which proclaims reconciliation, is not without fruit and profit.

§2.) Rev. Messrs. Blumer and Pomp transmitted their written apologies for absence from the present annual meeting, in which they refer to their bodily infirmities as unfitting them for undertaking a tedious journey, although they are not of such a nature as to interfere with their ministerial duties.

Domine Otterbein wished to be excused for absence, on account of a visit to the vacant congregations in Virginia, which seemed to be very necessary.

It was ascertained that the Rev. Mr. Trolltenier was sick during the whole of the last winter, and it is presumed, therefore, that he has not recovered sufficiently to undertake the journey to this place.

Domine Dellicker set out upon his journey, but was prevented by the very heavy storm of rain on last Saturday, from attending on the present meeting.

Domine Weber assigned as the excuse of his absence the long and difficult journey; but what has occasioned the absence of the remaining brethren, viz: Domines Herman, Dubendorf, and Güting, is yet unknown.

§3.) Domines Pauli and Rahauser have, since the last annual meeting of the Coetus, left their former stations and taken charge of others, viz: Domine Pauli of Reading and Domine Rahauser of Hagerstown, which changes were approved by the Coetus.

§4.) The congregation at York requested of the Rev. Coetus that Domine Wagner might be permitted to accept the call which they have presented to him. Domine Wagner left the decision of this matter to the Rev. Coetus; and after mature consideration, it was unanimously resolved, that Domine Wagner should accept

the call from the York congregation; in which decision he acquiesced. At the same time, permission was given to the Tolpenhocken congregation to call a minister from our connection.

§5.) In accordance with the resolution of the last Coetus, Mr. Wm. Hendel, son of the Rev. Dr. Hendel, was examined on the 17th of last October, by the committee appointed for that purpose, viz: Domines Blumer, Pomp and Helffrich, at Domine Blumer's house. The following report of the examination was submitted to the Rev. Coetus by Domine Helffrich: They thoroughly examined the young Mr. Hendel in the learned languages as well as in theology, and he gave the committee ample satisfaction. At the same time, they assigned him the duty of preaching before the present Coetus, from Rom. 8: 1, which he attended to accordingly and gave full satisfaction, both as to composition and delivery.

§6.) The German Reformed congregation in the city of New York sent in a call to the candidate, Mr. Wm. Hendel. At the same time, the Tolpenhocken congregation made a verbal application for the services of the same individual, which was referred to him for consideration. He thereupon asked for time to form his decision and permission to make known the result to the president.

§7.) The congregation at Easton again made a request at the present meeting for a pastor; as also the Toms creek, Apples, and Creagerstown congregations; and they shall be provided for as soon as possible.

SESSIO SECUNDA.

§1.) On Tuesday the 30th of April, the ministers and elders again assembled in the school house at 9 o'clock, A. M., and it was unanimously resolved, that the Candidate, Mr. William Hendel, be ordained this evening in connection with the public services; and that the President Domine Winckhaus, Secretary Domine Wack, and Domine Wagner, be a committee to conduct the ordination services.

§2.) Whereas the youth, Samuel Helffenstein, son of the Rev. A. Helffenstein, deceased, (who was received by us after the close of the last Coetus, and obtained permission to enter upon a course of study,) has diligently prosecuted his studies; therefore, be it herewith unanimously resolved, that Mr. Samuel Helffenstein be instructed to prosecute the study of the languages yet one year with Mr. Melsheimer, in Maccallister.

§3.) Inasmuch as we have not yet received a reply to our last letters and proceedings, it was resolved by a majority of votes, that for the present we will transmit to our Fathers in Holland only a letter, but not our proceedings.

§4.) Inasmuch as it appeared to all the members of the present Coetus to be necessary, that improvements should be made in a

Hymn book which is to be used in all our churches and congregations, the following persons were appointed a committee to attend to this duty, viz: Domines Hendel, Helffrich, Blumer, Wagner, Pauli and Mann. At the same time, Domine Winckhaus promised to do something towards effecting a convenient arrangement of the Catechism, and also to distribute it among the members of the Synod.

§5.) The Church Discipline which was prepared and submitted to the Coetus by Domines Hendel and Blumer, was publicly read before the Coetus, and each paragraph and article thoroughly investigated, and various amendments made, after which it was approved and subscribed by the ministers and elders.

§6.) In reference to the congregations at Cocalico, it was resolved, that Mr. Wilms be requested to appear at the next Synodical meeting, and submit to an examination.

§7.) Resolved that the Synodical meeting of the next year, be held in Reading on the fourth Sabbath after Easter.

Here follows in the original the subscription of the names of all the ministers and elders present. This, however, is a true copy of the original.

MINUTES OF 1794.

In accordance with the resolution of the Synodical meeting of last year held in Lancaster, the ministers with their delegated elders convened in Reading on the 18th of May, 1794. On Sabbath the Rev. President, Caspar Wack, preached a very edifying sermon and one very suitable to the occasion, from Col. 1: 28. On the following Monday, the 19th of May, the ministers with their delegated elders assembled in the school house. The members present were:

Mr. Hendel, Sen.,	minister at	Philadelphia,
" Gross,	"	New York,
" Pomp,	"	Indian creek,
" Gobrecht,	"	Hanover,
" Dallicker,	"	Falconer Swamp,
" Blumer,	"	Northampton,
" Helffrich,	"	Maccungie,
" Wagner,	"	York,
" Weber,	"	Pittsburg,
" Runkel,	"	Fredericktown,
" Herman,	"	Germantown,
" Güting,	"	Antietam,
" Stock,	"	Shippensburg,

Mr. Rahauser,	minister at	Hagerstown,
" Pauli,	"	Reading,
" Mann,	"	Lower Saucon,
" Faber,	"	Goshenhoppen,
" Hendel, Jr.,	"	Tolpenhocken,
" Wack,	"	Rockaway,
" Troldenier,	"	Baltimore.
The absent members were:		
Mr. Otterbein,	minister at	Baltimore,
" Hautz,	"	Harrisburg,
" Dubendorf,	"	Carlisle.

MONDAY.

Morning Session.

1.) The Rev. President Wack opened the meeting with an appropriate prayer. He then took his seat as President, and the Rev. J. Troldenier was chosen Secretary. The President proposed questions to the ministers and elders present, in reference to the external as well as internal condition of their congregations, and all the reports presented united in stating that outward peace and harmony prevail, with the following exceptions:

a.) Mr. Weber of Pittsburg, complained of persecutions in his congregation, in view of which he was constrained to preach no longer in the church, but in private houses.

b.) Mr. Runkel complained of strife amongst the members of his congregation, of whom, those who constitute the Schneider's party, had attacked and taken possession of the church. The matter was therefore brought before the civil court. He, however, has good hopes that the difficulties will be healed, and the church opened again.

c.) Mr. Mann of Lower Saucon and Springfield complained, that for about a year past, dissatisfaction existed amongst some of his members; but added that at present they were considerably allayed, and, that his congregations in every respect are increasing.

2.) Mr. Hendel stated, that young Mr. Helffenstein had been for some time past instructed in the languages by Mr. Melsheimer; but that he was at present with Mr. Stock of Shippensburg, and proposed that he should continue his studies under his direction. Mr. Stock, however, desired to be excused from this duty on account of disqualification; and a committee, consisting of the Revs. Blumer, Helffrich and Dallicker, was appointed to determine who shall undertake this service, and to report the result to-morrow.

Afternoon Session.

1.) The business which first engaged attention had reference to the Easton, Greenwich, Dryland and Plainfield congregations, to whom a minister was promised at the last annual meeting. Mr. Becker now presented himself, who had come from Germany, and

since his arrival, had served these congregations. He was received as a candidate for the ministry. At the same time, it was resolved, that he should first submit to a *tentamen*, which requirement should be made of all candidates in future. The *tentamen* of Mr. Becker, however, was changed to a sermon on John 16: 13.

2.) In reference to the congregations at Toms creek and Creagerstown, who had made a request for a minister to the last annual meeting, Mr. Hinsch, who recently arrived in America, announced himself. It was resolved that he be examined and in case he be found qualified, also ordained.

At the same time, Mr. Gross of New York, proposed another young man for examination and ordination, of the name of Philip Milledoller. John Gobrecht and George Geistweidt also announced themselves for examination. Mr. Hoffmeier from Germany was likewise admitted to examination. The committee appointed to conduct the examination consisted of the Rev. Messrs. Dallicker, Blumer, Hendel, Wagner and Herman. Several calls were also at the same time read, namely: a call from Shamokin to Mr. Geistweidt, another from Easton to Mr. Becker, another from Toms creek to Mr. Hinsch, and another from Upper Saucon to Mr. Hoffmeier.

TUESDAY.

Morning Session.

1.) The committee appointed in reference to the case of young Mr. Helffenstein reported through Mr. Blumer, that Mr. Stock had concluded to keep him yet for a time, and then to transfer him to Mr. Hendel. At the same time, it was stated that the ministers were requested to make efforts to secure from their congregations funds for the support of the young man, so that he may be able to complete his studies.

2.) The case of Mr. Wilm, to whom a call was made out by the Cocalico and Mode creek congregations, and in behalf of whom it was promised at the last annual meeting, that he should report himself for examination at this meeting, inasmuch as it was taken up yesterday, was again taken up to-day. As, however, he had administered the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper, contrary to the established order of the Church, the president proposed the following questions:

a.) Whether he was worthy to be longer regarded as a teacher in the German Reformed Church? which was negatived by a majority. The elders were hereupon requested to give their vote, which resulted the same as that of the ministry.

b.) Whether the congregations of Mr. Wilm were deserving of censure? which was affirmed by a majority of votes; whereupon the president, the Rev. Mr. Wack, pronounced the censure in the presence of the elder who represented the congregation.

Afternoon Session.

1.) The congregations of Saucon and Springfield, in which a disturbance has existed for some time, were notified, that the President will visit them, for the purpose of fully healing all division.

2.) Mr. Stock proposed a man of the name of Jacob Christman for the ministry. It was, however, resolved to take the matter into consideration hereafter.

3.) It was resolved, that the examination of Messrs. Hoffmeier, Hinsch, Milledoller, Gobrecht and Geistweidt, be continued on tomorrow.

4.) A call from Upper Paxton township was replied to, and the congregation there promised, that they shall be provided with a minister.

5.) The letters from Fredericktown against the Rev. Mr. Runkel were read; the congregation, however, was answered, that if they shall unite among themselves and the congregation shall call a minister from our Synod, who will serve them, then Mr. Runkel shall leave the congregation.

6.) Mr. Hendel stated, that he had accepted of a call from Philadelphia, which was approved. At the same time, permission was granted to the congregation at Lancaster, to elect a minister from amongst the members of our Synod.

WEDNESDAY.

Morning Session.

1.) The committee were called upon to report the result of the examination of the candidates Hoffmeier, Hinsch, Gobrecht, Geistweidt and Milledoller. They stated, that they found the several candidates well qualified for the duties of the ministry. It was thereupon resolved by the Synod, that Mr. Hoffmeier be permitted to accept the call from Upper Saucon, Mr. Geistweidt that from Sunbury, Middle creek, Bauerman and Dupson's congregations, and Mr. Becker that from Easton.

2.) Mr. Gobrecht stated, that his son had not received a call; but that his congregations had urged him to receive his son as an assistant, which arrangement was approved by the Synod, and for certain reasons, it was resolved to ordain him to the ministry.

3.) Doctor Gross requested the Rev. Synod to admit Mr. Milledoller to ordination, inasmuch as he was in great need of an assistant, and cherished the hope that in a short time Mr. Milledoller would be accepted as the pastor of the congregation in New York; which request was granted by the Synod.

4.) In regard to Mr. Becker, of Easton, it was resolved, that Messrs. Blumer, Helffrich and Wack be appointed a committee to ordain him in his own congregation. Messrs. Hoffmeier, Hinsch, Geistweidt, Gobrecht and Milledoller, are to be ordained this evening in Reading.

5.) It was resolved, that a new hymn book be prepared, of which the Psalms shall be taken from Lobwasser and Speng's improved version, and the Palatinate Hymn book form the basis of the hymns, with this difference only, that some unintelligible hymns be exchanged for better ones.

6.) Several articles were read, which were presented by several members of Synod, namely, Messrs. Blumer, Dallicker, Mann, Herman, Pomp and Troldenier, for the purpose of preventing disorder and disunion:

a.) That every one without exception, who has undertaken, before he has received ordination from our Synod, or from some other ministerial body, to administer the sacraments, shall be forever excluded from our Synod.

b.) That no individual member of our Synod shall have the power to ordain others to the ministry without the consent of the whole Synod. Should, however, any one undertake to do this, he shall necessarily be excluded from our Synod, as an enemy to our discipline.

c.) That no one shall be received into our connection, who has not the requisite knowledge of the languages, theology and moral philosophy.

The first two of these articles were adopted. The consideration of the third one, however, was postponed until the next annual meeting.

7.) The committee who were appointed to impart to others wholesome counsel in important matters consists of Messrs. Hendel, Pomp and Helffrich.

Finally, Philadelphia and Falconer Swamp were proposed as the place for holding the next annual meeting, whereupon Falconer Swamp was chosen by a majority of votes; at which place accordingly, the next Synodical meeting will be held on the fourth Sunday after Easter.

Here follows in the original the subscription of the names of the ministers and elders present. This, however, is a true copy of the original.

MINUTES OF 1795.

In accordance with the resolution adopted at the last annual meeting at Reading, the Rev. ministers together with their delegated elders, assembled in Falconer Swamp, on the 3d of May, 1795. The President of Synod, the Rev. Troldenier, preached an edifying sermon and one very appropriate to the occasion, from 1 Thess. 5: 12, 13.

On the following Monday, May the 4th, the Rev. ministers and the elders convened in the church at Falconer Swamp. The following members were present:

Mr. Hendel,	minister at	Philadelphia,
" Pomp,	"	Indianfield,
" Gobrecht,	"	Hanover,
" Dallicker,	"	Falconer Swamp,
" Wagner,	"	York,
" Wack,	"	Rockaway,
" Runkel,	"	Fredericktown,
" Herman,	"	Germantown,
" Troldenier,	"	Baltimore,
" Stock,	"	Shippensburg,
" Rahauser,	"	Hagerstown,
" Pauli,	"	Reading,
" Mann,	"	Saucon,
" Faber,	"	Goshenhoppen,
" Hendel,	"	Tolpenhocken,
" Becker,	"	Lancaster,
" Hoffmeier,	"	Saucon.

The absentees were as follows:

Messrs. Otterbein, Gross, Blumer, Helffrich, Weber, Güting, Hautz, Dubendorf, Milledoller, Hinsch, Geistweidt and Gobrecht, Jr.

FIRST SESSION.

Monday Morning.

1.) Mr. Troldenier opened the session with a very appropriate prayer, and took his seat as President, and Mr. Herman was elected Secretary. In connection with the usual questions eliciting a report in reference to the performance of the duties of the ministerial office and its results, it was ascertained, that the duties of the ministers were discharged with fidelity in all the congregations, and blessings derived therefrom through the grace of God; and that external harmony and peace prevail in the congregations, with the following exceptions:

a.) Mr. Runkel of Fredericktown informed the Synod, that the difficulties in the congregation at Fredericktown, to which he referred at the last annual meeting, have not yet been healed, but that he now hoped that they would soon be entirely removed. A communication, which was transmitted by the congregation at Fredericktown and presented by the delegate, Mr. Brunner, stated that the complaints of the Schneider party against the minister and congregation at Fredericktown, presented to the last Synod, were unfounded. The communication was read before the Synod, and it was resolved that the case of the Rev. Mr. Runkel be at a subsequent time again taken into consideration.

b.) A communication was received from the Saucon congregation containing complaints against the Rev. Mr. Mann, and adverting to a great disturbance in the congregation. As, however, another communication was received at the same time from the same congregation in favor of Mr. Mann; and the positions of both communications are maintained by members of the same congregation, nothing was done in the matter. It was, however, resolved to take up the matter at another time.

2.) In accordance with § 8, Art. 5, of the Constitution and Rules of Synod, the minutes of the last annual meeting were now read; and the article, the action upon which was deferred until this meeting, namely: "That no one shall be received into our connection, who has not the requisite knowledge of the languages, theology and moral philosophy," was taken up. Nothing, however, was again done in the matter.

3.) Two candidates from Virginia reported themselves to the Synod for ordination to the office of the ministry. After the testimonials of both the Messrs. Hoffman, which were furnished them by several congregations in Virginia, were read before Synod and the circumstances of that section of country presented, a committee was appointed who should first examine the Messrs. Hoffman whether they possess the requisite knowledge. The committee consisted of Messrs. Wack, Wagner, Dallicker and Pauli.

4.) Messrs. Wack and Pomp made application for the examination and ordination of the candidates Wack, Pomp and Senn, and requested the Synod to have the matter attended to in the fall through a committee. The request was acceded to, and the committee appointed for the purpose consisted of Messrs. Dallicker, Blumer, Helffrich, Hendel and Herman.

SECOND SESSION.

Monday Afternoon.

1.) The case of the Rev. Mr. Runkel was again taken up. A communication from the Fredericktown congregation was read, in which Mr. Runkel and his congregation defend themselves against the complaints preferred by the Schneider party, and declare that the minister and congregation are innocent of the things laid to their charge.

a.) Another communication was laid before the Synod by the delegate of the Fredericktown congregation, in which they charge the Rev. Mr. Troldenier with having caused a disturbance in the Fredericktown congregation. The communication was read and taken up item by item. It was found, however, upon investigation, that all the charges were unfounded and Mr. Troldenier accordingly is innocent in the matter.

b.) The question was also raised: "Whether the Synod, in view of the circumstances and situation in which the congregation at Fredericktown is found at present, should at this time still inter-

est itself in behalf of this congregation?" This question was answered in the affirmative, as well by the ministry as by the eldership.

Hereupon it was resolved, that a communication be sent to the congregation, in which it shall be informed of the action of this Synod, namely: "That the Fredericktown congregation shall still be in the connexion and under the care of the Synod," and in which also the groundlessness of its charges against Mr. Troldenier shall be set forth.

2.) The case of Mr. Mann and his congregations was also taken up. No action, however, was had, but the case deferred until tomorrow.

THIRD SESSION.

Tuesday Morning.

1.) The committee which was appointed to examine the candidates, Messrs. Hoffman, reported, and their opinion was: That they thought the candidates would be qualified to submit to an examination at the next annual meeting, in case they, in the mean time, apply themselves closely to their studies. Mr. Hendel proposed, in view of the situation of the congregations, to proceed at once with the ordination of the Messrs. Hoffmans, which proposition was sustained by Messrs. Wagner and Runkel also. The Synod, however, esteemed it best, in view of the situation of the congregations, to request the Rev. Mr. Rahauser to visit them and administer to them the sacraments. The congregations are to be informed of this matter by a communication from Synod.

2.) The case of Mr. Mann was again taken up, and the question was proposed to the Synod, Whether Mr. Mann, in case he should receive a call elsewhere through the intervention of Synod, should accept of it? This question was answered in the affirmative, yet so as to allow him to act freely in the matter and not through compulsion.

3.) The standing committee this year consists of Messrs. Pomp, Hendel and Dallicker.

4.) The session was closed, and the Synod is to convene again in Philadelphia, on the fourth Sunday after Easter, 1796.

Here follows in the original the subscription of the names of the ministers and elders present.

MINUTES OF 1796.

Proceedings of Synod held on the 25th of April, 1796, in Philadelphia.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Domine Frederick Herman,	minister at	Germantown,
" Dr. Wm. Hendel,	"	Philadelphia,
" Christopher Gobrecht,	"	Hanover,
" Frederick Delicker,	"	Falconer Swamp,
" Daniel Wagner,	"	York,
" Caspar Wack,	"	Rockaway,
" Wm. Runkel,	"	Fredericktown,
" Philip Pauli,	"	Reading,
" John Faber,	"	Goshenhoppen,
" William Hendel, Jr.,	"	Tolpenhocken,
" George Geistweidt,	"	Sunbury,
" Liebrecht Ludwig Hinsch,	"	Creagerstown,
" Philip Milledoller,	"	New York,
" Thomas Pomp,		
" Jacob Wack,		
" Jacob Senn,		
" John Henry Helffrich, Secretary,		Weissenburg.

ABSENTEES.—Dom. Dr. Gross, (on account of the great distance,) Dom. Nicholas Pomp, (on account of indisposition,) Dom. Otterbein, (on account of indisposition,) Dom. Blumer, Dom. Trolldenier, (on account of the laying of the corner-stone of the church in Baltimore,) Dom. Stock, Dom. Rahauser, Dom. Mann, Dom. Becker, Dom. Hoffmeier, Dom. Weber, Dom. Güting, Dom. Hautz, Dom. Dubendorf, Dom. Gobrecht, Jr., Dom. Ingold.

FIRST SESSION, A. M., APRIL 25th.

Mr. Herman was chosen President, and Mr. Helffrich, Secretary, after which the President opened the meeting with an appropriate prayer. After the "Synodal Ordnung" was publicly read by the President, and subscribed by those ministers who had not already affixed their signatures, the usual questions were proposed in reference to the external condition of the congregations, to the discharge of the duties of the ministerial office, and the fruits of these labors. From the reports of the several ministers, confirmed by their elders, it appeared that the ministers are faithful in preaching, catechising, &c., and that their labors are not without fruit and happy results.

ARTICLE 1.

The congregation in New York, in a communication, asked to be received, together with their minister, into connection with our

Synod. It was resolved, that Mr. Milledoller by his subscription of our "Synodal Ordnung," has already been received; the request with respect to the congregation was also approved, with the condition, that this congregation send to Synod a member of its consistory with authority to subscribe our "Synodal Ordnung." This resolution is to be communicated to the congregation, which was also done.

ARTICLE 2.

The committee, which was appointed by the Synod of last year, to examine the three candidates, Thomas Pomp, Jacob Wack and Jacob Senn and to ordain them if the way be open, reported that they attended to the duty assigned them, and were perfectly satisfied with their knowledge of theology, the languages, &c., and accordingly have ordained them to the ministry. It was resolved that the Synod is well satisfied with what was done.

ARTICLE 3.

The committee appointed by the Synod of last year, to hold a tentamen with the two candidates from Virginia, Daniel and James Hoffman, was again appointed to examine the two Hoffmans, together with the Candidate Samuel Helffenstein, privately this afternoon, and to make a report thereof to the Synod on tomorrow morning.

ARTICLE 4.

Two congregations beyond the Blue mountain, namely, Paul's and Christ's churches, requested that they may be supplied with preaching on the Sabbath several times during the year, by Mr. Hendel, Jr. It was resolved that this request be referred to a committee consisting of Messrs. Wagner, Runkel, Pauli and Hendel, Jr., with instructions to report their views to Synod this afternoon.

SECOND SESSION, P. M.

ARTICLE 5.

The committee referred to in Art. 4, of this morning's session, reported, recommending that both congregations be written to, and informed that the Synod will provide for them, and will request the six congregations to which Mr. Hendel preaches, to allow one Sabbath in the year to be taken from each of them, in order that the congregations beyond the Blue mountain may be supplied with the divine ordinances. It was resolved, that the report of the committee be adopted.

ARTICLE 6.

The congregation at Trumbauer's church asked for a collection towards the liquidation of the debt on their parsonage. It was

resolved, that the congregation be informed that the Synod cannot accede to their request in reference to a collection, but advise them to send out suitable men to collect for them.

ARTICLE 7.

The Synod had an interview with Mr. Steiner, in reference to the printing of the new Hymn book. Mr. Steiner proposes to print it by next fall at the most reasonable price. It was resolved by the majority of the ministers, that they would support it.

ARTICLE 8.

Rev. Dr. Hendel presented the sad consequences which are caused by the publication of blasphemous works, especially those of Thomas Paine. It was resolved that the ministry endeavor to operate against these results, by watching and prayer, according to the example of the apostles.

THIRD SESSION, A. M., APRIL 26th.

ARTICLE 9.

The committee, namely, Messrs. Wagner, Wack and Pauli, which was appointed yesterday to examine the Candidate Helffenstein and the two Hoffmans, reported that they examined the three gentlemen, especially Mr. Helffenstein, as to their knowledge of the learned languages and theology, and found them qualified for the office of the ministry. It was resolved that the two Hoffmans, who have received calls from Virginia, be ordained this evening in the church, and that Mr. Helffenstein be advised to take the call to Shamokin into consideration, and to visit the congregations in that place; or in case he receives a call from another quarter, to inform the President of it, who shall notify the committee, which shall in that case ordain him here in the city.

ARTICLE 10.

Synod resolved to have a new seal prepared, in which nothing but the inscription shall be altered; the old seal, however, shall be preserved as a memento.

ARTICLE 11.

Rev. Dr. Hendel called attention to the proposition in the House of Representatives, threatening the overthrow of the instruction of the youth in the true Christian religion, and proposed to take into consideration how it may be defeated or amended. It was resolved, that the Standing Committee be requested to be vigilant, and as soon as they thought encroachments were being made, to have a petition opposing the measure or asking for amendments, printed, and sent to the ministers for subscription by the members of their congregations.

ARTICLE 12.

Mr. Milledoller inquired, in case several German Reformed congregations in the State of New York, should desire to become connected with our Synod, what kind of an answer he should return them? It was resolved, that Mr. Milledoller inform them of our willingness to accede to their wishes, but that they must, at the same time, subscribe our "Synodal Ordnung."

ARTICLE 13.

The congregation at Easton requested, that their call to the Rev. Thomas Pomp to become their pastor, may be confirmed. It was resolved that the request of the Easton congregation be granted.

ARTICLE 14.

Five congregations in Shamokin sent up to Synod a request for a minister. It was resolved, that Mr. Helffenstein be advised to visit these congregations, and accept a call from them.

ARTICLE 15.

It was resolved, that the next meeting of Synod be held in York, on the fourth Sunday after Easter.

Here follows in the original the subscription of the names of the ministers and elders present. This, however, is substantially a true copy of the original.

 MINUTES OF 1797.

Proceedings of the Synod held in York, Pa., May 15th, 1797.

Members Present.

Wm. Hendel, D.D.,	minister at	Philadelphia,
W. Otterbein,	"	Baltimore,
Domine Gobrecht,	"	Hanover,
" Runkel,	"	Frederick,
" Troidenier,	"	Baltimore,
" Güting,	"	Antietam,
" Hautz,	"	Harrisburg,
" Stock,	"	Chambersburg,
" Rahauser,	"	Hagerstown,
" Pauli,	"	Reading,
" Faber,	"	Goshenhoppen,
" Hendel, Jr.,	"	Tolpenhocken,
" Becker, D.D.,	"	Lancaster,
" Geistweit,	"	Middlecreek,
" Gobrecht, Jr.,	"	
" Hoffman,	"	
" Pomp,	"	Easton,
" Wagner,	"	York.

Absentees.

Domines Helffrich, Dallicker, Pomp, Sr., Hoffmeier, Mann, Herman, Wack, Sr., Wack, Jr., Senn, Milledoller, Hoffman, Hinsch.

FIRST SESSION, A. M.

After the Rev. Dr. Hendel was chosen President and the Rev. D. Wagner, Secretary, the private session called for in the "Synodal Ordnung," was held, and after it was closed, the first public session was commenced, and opened with an appropriate prayer by the President. The usual questions were then proposed in reference to the external condition of the congregations, the discharge of the duties of the ministry and the results to be expected therefrom. It appeared that peace and harmony prevailed in all the congregations, and that the blessing of God followed the admonitions to the members of the congregations in regard to seeking the salvation of their souls, though some few complained in reference to this point.

SECOND SESSION, P. M.

1.) A communication was received from the Lower Saucon congregation, in which they stated that they have discontinued their connection with the Springfield congregation, obtained a charter, and received Domine Hoffmeier as their pastor. They also request the Synod not to give heed to the objections from Springfield; but to approve of their proceedings. It was resolved, that inasmuch as no one from either of the parties is personally present, nothing can be done in the matter at present.

2.) A communication from Virginia, Hardy county, Middlecreek, and South Branch, was read, containing a request to be provided with a faithful minister. It was resolved, that inasmuch as at present no one can be sent thither, measures be taken to provide them with an occasional visit from a minister in the mean time. Domines Rahauser, Hoffman and Gobrecht signified their willingness each to visit these congregations once.

3.) A communication from different congregations in Guilford county, North Carolina, Steiner's, Rilschland and Grace churches, was read, containing a request for a faithful minister. It was resolved, that at present their request cannot be complied with, but that it shall be attended to as soon as possible.

4.) A communication from a congregation at Second creek, Rowan county, North Carolina, was read, asking that a collection be taken up in their behalf, and a minister be sent to them. It was resolved, that they be informed that a collection in their behalf cannot at this time be taken up; but that with regard to a minister, they shall be provided for as soon as practicable.

5.) Domines Trolldenier and Stock were appointed to prepare a form for a certificate of ordination.

THIRD SESSION, MAY 16th, A. M.

1.) Domines Troldenier and Stock reported that they had prepared a form for a certificate of ordination. It was read and then unanimously adopted.

2.) It was resolved to submit to the absent brethren, for their approval, the question as to whether the sacrament of the Lord's Supper shall in future be administered at the meeting of Synod.

3.) It was resolved, that the next annual meeting be held in Lancaster, on the fourth Sabbath after Easter..

Here follows in the original the subscription of the names of the ministers and elders present. This, however, is substantially a true copy of the original.

 MINUTES OF 1798.

Proceedings of the Synod held in Lancaster, April 30th, 1798.

PRESENT.—Messrs. Helffrich, Hendel, Sen., Gobrecht, Sen., Wack, Sen., Runkel, Troldenier, Rahausen, Pauli, Faber, Hendel, Jr., Becker, Geistweidt, Hinsch, Pomp, Jr., Helffenstein and Wagner.

ABSENT.—Messrs. Stock, Güting, Hautz, Otterbein, D. Hoffman, J. Hoffman, Gobrecht, Jr., Pomp, Sen., Dallicker, Herman, Hoffmeier, Senn, Wack, Jr., Milledoller.

FIRST SESSION, APRIL 30th, A. M.

1.) At 8 o'clock the private session was held, when Mr. Helffrich was appointed President and Mr. Wagner Secretary, and other business transacted, according to the direction of the "Synodal Ordnung."

At 10 o'clock the public session was opened with an appropriate prayer by the President. The usual questions in reference to the external condition of the congregations, the discharge of the duties of the ministry, and the results to be expected therefrom, were proposed. Nothing was elicited by the reports indicating dissatisfaction in any of the congregations; and hopes were generally expressed that increased blessings from the Lord would be realized.

2.) A request was received from two congregations in Donegal, asking for permission to have Mr. William Hiester as their pastor. It was resolved that a committee be appointed to hold a *tentamen* with Mr. Hiester, and report the result to Synod.

3.) A call from Mifflinburg was read. It was resolved, that, at present, their wishes cannot be met; but that measures will be taken to have them attended to as soon as practicable.

SECOND SESSION, P. M.

1.) A petition was received from six congregations in North Carolina, asking that Mr. Christman from their vicinity, be ordained as their minister.

It was resolved that the said Christman be examined. Messrs. Gobrecht, Wack and Runkel were appointed a committee to attend to this duty. To the same committee was also assigned the duty of holding a *tentamen* with Mr. Hiester.

2.) Mr. Hinsch complained that Mr. Güting is making encroachments on his congregations. It was resolved that Mr. Güting be written to in reference to this matter.

3.) Inasmuch as Messrs. Hoffmeier and Mann have been absent three times without assigning a reason, it was resolved, that they be written to and reminded that they will be dealt with according to the "Synodal Ordnung."

THIRD SESSION, MAY 31st, A. M.

1.) The committee appointed to hold a *tentamen* with Mr. Hiester, and examine Mr. Christman, reported, that both the candidates gave them satisfaction.

2.) In reference to Mr. Hiester, it was resolved, that he be permitted to serve the congregations at Donegal as a catechist, under the direction of his present teacher, until the next meeting of Synod.

3.) In reference to Mr. Christman, it was resolved, that he be ordained this evening as the pastor of the congregations in North Carolina.

4.) The resolution of last year's Synod in reference to the sacrament of the Lord's Supper, was taken up. It was resolved, that in view of certain difficulties, the consideration of this subject be postponed.

5.) It was resolved, that the next annual meeting be held on the fourth Sabbath after Easter of the coming year, at Reading, Pa.

Here follows in the original, the subscription of the names of the ministers and elders present. This, however, is substantially a true copy of the original.

 MINUTES OF 1799.

Proceedings of the Synod held in Reading, Pa., May 27th, 1799.

PRESENT.—MESSRS. Wagner, Gobrecht, Sen., Helffrich, Wack, Sen., Runkel, Hautz, Stock, Rahauser, Faber, Hendel, Becker, Hoffmeier, Hinsch, Gobrecht, Jr., Pomp, Jr., Wack, Jr., Senn, Helffenstein, Herman, Pauli.

ABSENT.—Messrs. Trolldenier, Otterbein, Güting, Hoffman, Pomp, Sen., Milledoller, Geistweidt, Mann, Weber.

FIRST SESSION, MAY 27th, A. M.

At 8 o'clock, the private session was held, when the choice made yesterday of Mr. Wagner as President, and Mr. Pomp as Secretary, was confirmed. At the same time other business was transacted, according to the direction of the "Synodal Ordnung."

At 10 o'clock the first public session was opened with an appropriate prayer by the President. The usual questions in reference to the external condition of the congregations, the discharge of the duties of the ministry, and the results to be expected therefrom, were proposed. No evidence of dissatisfaction in any of the congregations was elicited; and the hope was generally expressed that greater blessings from the Lord attending the efforts to build up the congregations would be realized.

SECOND SESSION, P. M.

1.) Petitions were received from the two congregations at Blaser's church and Maytown, in Lancaster county, asking for the examination and ordination of Mr. Hiester, who has preached to them for one year. It was resolved that a committee be appointed to examine him, for which purpose the same committee was appointed which held a *tentamen* with him last year, namely, Messrs. Gobrecht, Sen., Wack, Sen., and Runkel.

2.) Letters were received from four congregations in Augusta county, Va., requesting the Synod to ordain to the ministry, the bearer of the letters, Mr. Henry Diffenbach, who had preached for them for some time. It was resolved that a committee be appointed to examine him. Messrs. Herman, Becker and Hendel constituted this committee.

3.) A call from Lebanon and the four congregations united with it to Mr. Rahauser, was received, accompanied with the request to the Synod, to send him to them as their minister. As, however, earnest petitions were also presented from Hagerstown to permit him to remain there, Mr. Rahauser left the disposition of the matter to Synod. It was resolved by a majority of votes, that he should remain in Hagerstown. It was further resolved, that the congregation at Lebanon be notified of this result, and at the same time informed, that they have permission to call any other member of our Synod, and that the individual to whom they may make a call, is at liberty to accept of it.

4.) A communication from the congregation at Harrisburg and three neighboring congregations was read, in which they petition for a minister. It was resolved, that they be informed, that the Synod will have a regard to their wants, and that they have permission to make out a call to any member of our Synod.

THIRD SESSION, MAY 28th, A. M.

The committee which was appointed to examine Mr. Hiester reported, that they regard him as qualified for being admitted to the ministerial office. It was, therefore, resolved, that he be ordained in the congregations from which he has received a call. Messrs. Wagner, Becker and Hendel were appointed a committee to attend to this duty.

2.) The committee appointed to examine Mr. Dieffenbach, reported, that he did not furnish them the satisfaction which they desired. They are accordingly of opinion, that he should be encouraged to hope, that in case he prosecutes his studies diligently and reports himself again, and should be found qualified on examination, he shall be ordained. It was resolved, that this resolution be communicated to him, and that he be advised to apply himself diligently to the reading of useful books, and endeavor to obtain still further instruction from some minister of our Synod.

3.) The Standing Committee for the present year consists of Messrs. Gobrecht, Helffrich and Herman.

4.) Mr. Billmeyer asked for an advance towards prosecuting the publication of the new Hymn book. It was resolved, that the assurance be given him, that the ministers will exert themselves to secure for him the desired advance, on the condition, however, that he, when he has his edition of the Hymn book finished, will take on his own account, the balance of the Hymn books of the first edition that may yet remain in the hands of the heirs of Mr. Hendel, deceased.

5.) It was resolved that the next annual meeting of Synod be held in York on the fourth Sabbath after Easter.

Here follows in the original, the subscription of the names of the ministers and elders present. This, however, is substantially a true copy of the original.

 MINUTES OF 1800.

Proceedings of the Synod held at York, Pa., May 12th, 1800.

PRESENT.—Messrs. Pauli, Otterbein, Gobrecht, Sen., Wagner, Hautz, Rahauser, Faber, Hendel, Geistweidt, Gobrecht, Jr., Pomp, Jr., Hiester, Helffenstein, Hoffman, Becker, Hinsch, Stock, Runkel.

ABSENT.—Messrs. Pomp, Sen., Trolldenier, Wack, Sen., Wack, Jr., Helffrich, (excused), Herman, Milledoller, Mann, Senn, Güting, (excused), Christman, Weber, Hoffmeier.

FIRST SESSION, A. M.

1.) On yesterday the Rev. assembly elected the Rev. Mr. Pauli, President, and the Rev. Mr. Runkel, Secretary. The public ses-

sion was therefore opened to-day at 10 o'clock with an appropriate prayer by the President. The usual questions were then propounded in reference to the condition of the congregations, the discharge of the duties of the ministry, and the fruits that are to be expected therefrom. In an external point of view the condition of the congregations appears to be encouraging.

2.) Inasmuch as the delegate of Mr. Hendel was not present, but transmitted a written apology for absence, it was resolved, that it is requisite to send him an admonitory letter.

3.) Inasmuch as no delegate from the congregations of Mr. Gobrecht, Jr., was present, it was resolved, that an admonitory letter be therefore sent to these congregations.

SECOND SESSION, P. M.

1.) The congregation at Lebanon together with three others connected with it, transmitted to Synod a call to the Rev. Mr. Hiester. It was resolved, that, as the expression of the opinion of Synod, Mr. Hiester ought to accept of the call, with the understanding, however, that he continue to serve the congregations to which he at present preaches.

2.) The congregations at Harrisburg and vicinity transmitted to Synod a call to the Rev. Mr. Hoffman. It was resolved, that Mr. Hoffman be permitted, after he has maturely considered the subject in the fear of God, either to remain in Virginia where he is now located, or to accept of the above call, or a call from Huntingdon or Buffalo.

3.) A letter was received from the congregation at Germantown, stating, that they are without a pastor, and requesting the neighboring ministers to visit them. It was resolved, that the congregation be informed, that the Rev. Messrs. Helffenstein, Faber and Gobrecht, Jr., will visit them from time to time.

4.) Inasmuch as the present mode of ordaining candidates is attended with many difficulties, it was moved by Mr. Becker and seconded by Mr. Wagner, that those who offer themselves as candidates for the ministry, shall, after having sustained an examination, be received as licentiates or catechists, and that for one year; and that Messrs. Wagner and Becker be a committee to propose a plan for carrying out this object.

5.) A request was made by the congregations in Augusta county, Va., to have Mr. Dieffenbach placed over them as pastor. A similar request was made by the congregations in Rockingham county, Va., asking to have Mr. Brown placed over them as pastor. It was resolved that both these gentlemen be examined this evening.

6.) Mr. Peter Eisenberg and his congregations, asked that the said Eisenberg be received into connection with Synod. It was resolved, that Mr. Eisenberg be examined this evening at the same time with the above named two gentlemen, and that by a committee consisting of Messrs. Wagner, Hendel and Becker.

7.) Several persons from the Holtz-Schwamm congregation preferred complaints against Mr. Wagner. The question, Whether Mr. Wagner had acted right or wrong? was submitted to Synod, and it was resolved by the majority: That Mr. Wagner has acted right, and is not deserving of censure.

THIRD SESSION, MAY 13th, A. M.

1.) Inasmuch as Mr. Wagner was yesterday found and declared innocent of the charges preferred against him, it was resolved by the majority of Synod, that Mr. Lauer, the principal complainant, be directed to deliver to Mr. Wagner's consistory in said congregation, the key of their church.

2.) The committee, consisting of Messrs. Wagner and Becker, appointed to propose a plan for the reception of ministers, reported. The plan was read before Synod and unanimously adopted. It was also resolved, that it be entered upon record.

3.) The committee of examination reported, that they last evening examined the three gentlemen, namely, Messrs. Eisenberg, Brown and Dieffenbach, and found Messrs. Eisenberg and Brown qualified for the ministry, and recommended that they be licensed, and that Mr. Dieffenbach be regarded as a catechist. It was resolved, that the report of the committee be approved and adopted.

4.) The next annual meeting of Synod was directed to be held at Easton, Pa., on the fourth Sabbath after Easter.

Here follows in the original the subscription of the names of the ministers and elders present. The above, however, is substantially a true copy of the original.

5.) After the elders had withdrawn, &c., the subject of transferring the copy-right to print the Hymn book, to Mr. Billmeyer, was brought up for consideration; and it was resolved, that the President and Secretary be authorized to make and perfect the said transfer.

6.) The above transfer was also made and perfected the same day.

A true copy of the original.

MINUTES OF 1801.

In accordance with the resolution of the Synod of last year, held at York, Pa., the ministers together with their delegated elders, assembled in Easton, Pa., on the 3d of May, 1801. On this day a very appropriate and edifying sermon was preached by the President. On the following Monday the public sessions of Synod commenced in the Union academy.

The ministers present, were

Mr. Runkel,	minister at	Fredericktown,
" Pomp, Sen.,	"	Easton,
" Helffrich,	"	Weissenberg,
" Wack, Sen.,	"	Rockaway,
" Herman,	"	Falconer Swamp,
" Pauli,	"	Reading,
" Faber,	"	Goshenhoppen,
" Becker,	"	Lancaster,
" Hoffmeier,	"	Lower Saucon,
" Gobrecht, Jr.,	"	Northampton,
" Wack, Jr.,	"	
" Pomp, Jr.,	"	Easton,
" Senn,	"	Indianfield,
" Helffenstein,	"	Philadelphia,
" Brown, [Licentiate],	"	Virginia,
" Hendel,	"	Tulpehocken.

The absent members were:

Mr. Otterbein,	minister at	Baltimore,
" Gobrecht, Sen.,	"	Hanover, [excused],
" Wagner,	"	York, [do.]
" Weber,	"	Pittsburg, [do.]
" Mann,	"	
" Güting,	"	Antietam,
" Christman,	"	
" Hautz,	"	Carlisle,
" Rahausen,	"	Hagerstown,
" Geistweidt,	"	Shamokin,
" Hiester,	"	Lebanon,
" Stock,	"	Shippensburg,
" Hinsch,		
" Hoffman.		

FIRST SESSION.

Monday Morning.

1.) After Mr. Runkel was chosen President for the present year, and Mr. Hendel, Secretary, and the members had taken their seats in order, the meeting was opened with an appropriate prayer by the President. The usual questions were then proposed to the ministers and elders present, in reference to the internal and external condition of their congregations, and also to the discharge of their ministerial duties and the results thereof. The reports received united in stating, that as a general thing peace and satisfaction reign in the churches, and that the prospects for the future, in reference to the progress of the cause of the Saviour and Redeemer of men, are encouraging.

2.) After a call to the Rev. Mr. Faber from the four united congregations of Northampton, Jordan, Union and Egypt to become their pastor, had been declined, full liberty was given to these congregations at their own request to make out a call to any member of Synod, and permission granted to him to whom they shall address their call, to accept of it.

3.) A request was received from the congregations in Allen township, Lehigh township and Mooretown, Northampton county, to furnish them with a pastor. As, however, their request could not be immediately complied with, it was resolved, that a reply be forwarded to them, stating that Synod will keep their case in mind and endeavor to provide for them, and that they at the same time be informed, that they are at liberty to make out a call to any member of Synod.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

1.) A letter from the congregation at Germantown was read, in which they ask for a minister, and present the sad condition of the congregation and the great necessity for immediate relief. It was resolved, that the said congregation be notified, that they are at liberty to make out a call to any member of Synod, of which he also is permitted to accept. Messrs. Wack, Sen., Becker and Hendel, were appointed by Synod, at the request of the delegate of the congregation, to visit them in the mean time.

2.) A request was received from Jacob's church and the congregations connected with it, asking that they be permitted to invite the candidate Helffenstein to visit and preach to them, and that he also be permitted to comply with their invitation. It was resolved, not to oppose their wishes.

3.) At the request of Messrs. Wack and Becker, it was resolved, that a committee be appointed to examine the young gentlemen, Messrs. Helffenstein and Wack, Jr., on the first Wednesday in October next in Reading, Pa. The committee consists of Messrs. Helffrich, Pauli, Herman, Hoffmeier and Hendel.

4.) A communication was received from the congregations beyond the Blue Mountains, named Sommerberg, Kunkel's and Christ's church, in which they request the Synod to examine Mr. Jacob Guth, and to ordain him, in case he sustains an examination. It was resolved, that he be examined this fall, at the same time with the young men referred to above, and by the same committee.

5.) A request was received from the congregations in New Berlin and Buffalo valley, asking for the examination and ordination of Mr. Aurandt. A committee, consisting of Messrs. Wack, Sen., Becker and Hendel, was accordingly appointed, to examine him this evening, on the condition, however, that it be first ascertained whether he has not been guilty of administering the sacraments without authority. The committee are to report at to-morrow morning's session.

TUESDAY.—THE LAST SESSION.

1.) The committee on the case of Mr. Aurandt reported. As it appeared, however, that he had administered the sacrament of baptism in a certain case, for having done which he is very sorry, and he at the same time requests, that his examination may be deferred for a season, inasmuch as he feels himself wholly unfitted at present to undergo an examination, and it is his purpose to receive instruction from Mr. Wagner for some time to come; the examination was postponed until further directions are given by Synod. It was resolved, that Mr. Aurandt be permitted to present himself at the next meeting of Synod for examination and that he be directed, in the mean time, to abstain from administering the holy sacraments and attending on the so called "Big-meetings," and to prosecute his studies under the direction of a minister in connection with the Synod.

2.) Mr. Brown, a licensed candidate, reported in reference to the discharge of his ministerial duties, and gave full satisfaction as to the manner in which he attended to the various duties incumbent upon him by virtue of the "Synodal Ordnung." It was resolved, that his license be renewed for another year.

3.) It was resolved, that Mr. Eisenberg be notified of the resolution of Synod, namely, that he be directed to attend upon the next meeting of Synod, and report the cause of his present absence.

4.) Inasmuch as different complaints have been presented against Mr. Ingold, and he, by his own conduct, has excluded himself from Synod as a member, it was resolved, that he be informed of this fact, and furnished with a copy of the 10th article of the 8th paragraph of the "Synodal Ordnung," from which it appears, that he has excluded himself from Synod by his own act.

5.) A call from the united congregations, Jacob's, Codorus, David's, Zion's and Gettysburg to Mr. Gobrecht, Jr., to become their pastor, was presented. It was resolved, that it be left to Mr. Gobrecht to accept of the call, after mature consideration in the fear of God, with special reference to his relation to his father.

6.) The Synod resolved, that the committee which has been appointed to examine the several applicants this fall, be authorized, after the examination has been held, to proceed in their case according to the provisions of the "Synodal Ordnung."

7.) It was unanimously resolved, that the next annual meeting of Synod be held in Philadelphia on the fourth Sabbath after Easter.

8.) The standing committee for this year consists of Messrs. Gobrecht, Sen., Helffrich and Herman.

Here follows in the original the subscription of the names of the ministers and elders present. This, however, is a true copy of the original.

MINUTES OF 1802.

In accordance with the resolution adopted at the last annual meeting of Synod at Easton, the Rev. ministers together with their delegated elders assembled in the city of Philadelphia, on the 16th of May, 1802. An appropriate and edifying sermon was preached by the President, from Matth. 24: 38, 39. On the Monday following, the public session of the Synod was opened in the School house connected with the German Reformed Church.

The following persons were present:

President, W. Hendel,	minister at	Tolpenhocken,
D. Wagner,	"	York,
C. Wack,	"	Rockaway,
W. Runkel,	"	Germanatown,
A. Hautz,	"	Carlisle,
P. Pauli,	"	Reading,
J. Faber,	"	Goshenhoppen,
H. Hoffmeier,	"	Saucon,
J. Gobrecht,	"	Whitehall,
T. Pomp,	"	Easton,
J. Senn,	"	Indianfield,
J. Wack,	"	Amboy,
S. Helffenstein,	"	Philadelphia,
W. Hiester,	"	Lebanon,
G. Wack,	"	Skippack,
C. Helffenstein,	"	Allemengel,*
J. Rahauser,	"	Hagerstown.
<i>Candidates.</i>		
P. Eisenberg,	"	Grove,
H. Dieffenbach,	"	Carolina.

Absentees.

W. Otterbein, D. Gobrecht, (excused,) N. Pomp, (excused,) Herman, (excused,) Weber, (excused,) P. Stock, (excused,) Mann, Helffrich, (excused,) Becker, (excused,) Güting, (excused,) Geistweidt, Hinsch, Hoffman, (excused,) Christman, (excused.) *Candidate* Brown.

FIRST SESSION.

Monday Morning.

1.) After Mr. Hendel was chosen President for the present year, and Mr. Rahauser, Secretary, and the members of Synod had taken their seats, according to the prescribed order, the session was opened with an appropriate prayer by the President. The usual questions were then proposed to the ministers and elders.

* A portion of Berks county.

ers present, in reference to the external and internal condition of their congregations, the manner in which the duties of the ministry were discharged, and the fruits which are to be expected therefrom. The several reports presented, agree in stating, that peace and harmony prevail in the congregations, and that here and there persons were awakened by the preaching of our crucified Redeemer, and constrained to follow after the saints, and that thus encouraging prospects for the future are at hand, with regard to the extension of the Redeemer's kingdom, and the rescue of never dying souls.

2.) Inasmuch as several delegated elders were not present with their ministers, and their ministers also are unable to assign the causes of their absence, it was resolved, that in case a delegate is prevented from attending on the meeting of Synod, he shall furnish an alternate, with a notice of his absence, and with authority to attend.

3.) At the last annual meeting of Synod, a committee was appointed to examine Messrs. Wack and Helffenstein, and authorized, after they have sustained an examination, to proceed in their case according to the provisions of the Constitution. Mr. Pauli reported in behalf of the committee, that both gentlemen sustained their examination, and that, as Mr. Helffenstein presented a call from the congregations in Allemengel, and Mr. Wack stated verbally that a call from Worcester and Whitpain congregations would be sent to him in the course of a few days, which statement was confirmed by his father, both gentlemen were ordained by the committee. The proceedings of the committee were approved by the Synod.

4.) Inasmuch as the attention of Synod was called to the prevalence of Neology, especially in Europe, it was resolved, that with a view to guard against the introduction of this corruption as far as practicable, all ministers coming from Europe, as well as those ordained in this country, shall hereafter be for a period of three years, merely honorary members, and shall only after the expiration of this period, and in case their life and doctrine harmonize with the Gospel, be permitted to vote. This action is to be understood as applying to the ministerial meetings.

5.) A communication was received from the congregations in Allen, Moretown, Lehigh and Hanover townships, asking Synod to hold a *tentamen* with young Mr. Vondersloot, and to place him in a position to serve them as their pastor.

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed to hold a *tentamen* with him.

The following persons constituted the committee: Messrs. Hendel, Wagner, Wack, Sen., Runkel, and Wack, Jr.

SECOND SESSION.

1.) A communication was received from the congregations in Guilford, Orange and Randolph counties, N. C., asking Synod

to place Mr. Dieffenbach in a position to serve them in all circumstances as a German Reformed minister.

Resolved, That Mr. Dieffenbach be examined, and his case disposed of as the circumstances shall seem to require. The committee appointed to hold a *tentamen* with Mr. Vondersloot are also to examine Mr. Dieffenbach.

2.) Mr. Güting transmitted to Synod his excuse for absence.

Resolved, That a friendly and brotherly letter be written to him, and that he therein be urged, by all means to attend the next annual meeting of Synod.

3.) *Resolved*, That the absent ministers who do not transmit a written excuse for absence, shall be interrogated as to the cause of their absence at the subsequent annual meeting.

4.) A request was made by the congregations in Allemengel, for permission to retain Mr. C. Helffenstein as their minister. In this connection complaints were lodged against Mr. Helffenstein for having acted contrary to the "Synodal Ordnung," in that he had accepted a call from other congregations, and was about leaving his present congregations. Upon a closer investigation, however, it was found, that Mr. Becker counselled him to this course, and that Mr. Becker accordingly must be regarded as the principal cause of this proceeding, which is entirely contrary to our "Synodal Ordnung."

5.) In reference to Mr. Helffenstein, it was resolved, that he shall continue to serve his present congregations during the year for which he has made engagements with them; and in case he is inclined at the close of his year, to leave them, he shall communicate with the Standing Committee to ascertain their views on the subject.

6.) A request was made by the congregations in Fredericktown and vicinity, for the services of Mr. Wagner as their pastor. At the same time, the congregations in York and vicinity, opposed the granting of this request, and asked that Mr. Wagner be continued as their pastor.

7.) Mr. Eisenberg was present at this meeting, and his excuse for absence from the last annual meeting of Synod was accepted. He asked, and a written request to the same effect was made by his congregations, that his license might be renewed, which request was unanimously acceded to.

8.) The request of the congregations in Fredericktown and vicinity was taken into consideration. Mr. Runkel, when he found that the congregations were about to unite on Mr. Wagner, left Fredericktown, and accepted a call from Germantown. As Mr. Wagner had promised the congregations at Fredericktown to accept their call in case the Synod should approve of it, it was accordingly left to the Synod to give a decision in the matter. On counting the votes, it was found that nine were in favor of his remaining at York, and ten in favor of his removal to Fredericktown. The majority, accordingly, decided in favor of Fredericktown.

THIRD SESSION.

Tuesday Morning.

1.) The committee consisting of Messrs. Hendel, Wagner, Wack, Sen., and Wack, Jr., reported, that they held a *tentamen* with Mr. Vondersloot, and found his qualifications such that he can with propriety be licensed as a candidate for the ministry.

Resolved, That Mr. Vondersloot be licensed.

2.) The same committee reported in reference to Mr. Dieffenbach, that they examined him this morning, and found him qualified for the advancement asked for.

Resolved, That Mr. Dieffenbach, in view of the great distance of his residence and of other circumstances, be ordained this evening. Messrs. Wagner, Wack and Runkel were appointed a committee to ordain Mr. Dieffenbach.

3.) In reference to Mr. Eisenberg, it was resolved, in view of important considerations, to renew his license for three years, instead of one.

4.) An election was held for a Standing Committee for the present year. Messrs. Helffrich, Wagner and Wack were chosen this Committee.

5.) The request of the congregation in Alexandria, New Jersey, presented through their pastor, Mr. Jacob Wack, for permission to place themselves under the care of the Presbyterian Synod, inasmuch as they cannot well be otherwise provided for, was, after mature consideration, granted.

6.) To Mr. Vondersloot, in connection with his *tentamen*, was assigned the duty of preparing a sermon on Rom. 8: 1.

7.) *Resolved*, That the officers of Synod be elected on Sabbath morning before the sermon.

8.) It was resolved, that the next annual meeting be held in Lebanon, on the fourth Sabbath after Easter.

Here follows in the original, the subscription of the names of the ministers and elders present. This, however, is a true copy of the original.

 MINUTES OF 1803.

In accordance with the resolution of the Synod of last year held in Philadelphia, the ministers with their delegated elders convened in Lebanon on the 8th of May, 1803. A very edifying and appropriate sermon was preached on this day by the President, Rev. Mr. Helffrich, from Rom. 1: 13, 14.

PRESENT.—Messrs. Helffrich, Wagner, Weber, Runkel, Herman, Pauli, Hendel, Becker, Hoffmeier, Geistweidt, Hinsch, Go-

brecht, Jr., Senn, Helffenstein, Hoffman, Hiester, Wack, Jr., C. Helffenstein, Rahausen. Candidates Brown and Vondersloot.

ABSENT.—Messrs. Otterbein, Pomp, Sen., Gobrecht, Sen., Wack, Sen., Güting, (excused,) Hautz, Stock, Jacob Wack, Pomp, Jr., Faber, Christman, Dieffenbach, Eisenberg.

FIRST SESSION.

Monday Morning.

After the President elect, Mr. Helffrich, and the Secretary elect, Mr. Rahausen, together with the members of Synod had taken their seats according to order, in the School house in this place, the meeting was opened with an appropriate prayer by the President. The usual questions were then proposed, in reference to the external and internal condition of the congregations, the manner in which the duties of the ministry were discharged, and the results which are to be expected therefrom. The several reports united in stating that, for the most part, peace and harmony prevail in the congregations, and that here and there, also, the preaching of Christ crucified has proved powerful in awakening men and in furthering them in the ways of true godliness.

SECOND SESSION, P. M.

1.) Mr. Güting transmitted his excuse for absence, which was accepted by the Synod.

2.) Mr. Herman assigned the situation of his family as his excuse for absence, which was accepted.

3.) Mr. Becker was unwell, and accordingly excused. The excuse of Mr. Becker in reference to the case of Mr. Charles Helffenstein was also accepted.

4.) Mr. Hinsch assigned the situation of his family as his excuse for absence, which was accepted.

5.) Mr. Geistweidt assigned sickness as his excuse for absence, which was accepted.

6.) A certain man recently from Germany, N. Brünings, requested Synod in some way or other, to admit him to the ministry; which, however, the Synod declined to do, on account of his improper life and conduct.

7.) The congregation at Palmer's church requested that it might be served by Mr. Hiester. It was resolved, that Mr. Hiester be requested to give it, along with his other congregations, as much service as he possibly can, until other arrangements can be made.

8.) A request was made by two congregations in Chester county for a minister. It was resolved, that the congregations be directed to apply to Mr. Herman, and seek to be supplied through him.

9.) Application was made this morning by the congregations of Mr. Vondersloot for his ordination. The subject was again taken

into consideration this afternoon. It was resolved that Mr. Vondersloot be ordained. Messrs. Helffrich, Pomp and Hoffmeier were appointed a committee to ordain him in his congregations on the second Wednesday after Whitsuntide.

10.) A request was made by the congregations at Pine church, Mount Joy, Bleimeiers and Free church, for the examination of Mr. Adam Ettinger, and his appointment as their minister. It was resolved, that he be examined by a committee consisting of Messrs. Runkel, Pauli and Hendel, and that his case be disposed of as circumstances shall require.

11.) A communication from the congregation in Baltimore was presented by Mr. Hoffman, in which they request that Mr. Dreyer, their present minister, may be received as a member of Synod at the next annual meeting. It was resolved, that Mr. Dreyer shall be received as a member of Synod, in case he presents himself at the next annual meeting, and that the congregation be informed to this effect.

12.) The united congregations of York county, requested that Mr. Charles Helffenstein be placed over them as pastor. Mr. Helffenstein obtained the privilege to consider the subject until to-morrow morning.

13.) The congregation at Harrisburg made a request for the services of Mr. Hoffman as pastor. It was resolved, that it be left to Mr. Hoffman to act in the matter as he shall judge best, according to the resolution adopted three years ago at York.

THIRD SESSION.

Tuesday Morning.

1.) The committee consisting of Messrs. Runkel, Pauli and Hendel were called upon to report the result of the examination of Mr. Ettinger. They accordingly reported, that they found him as well qualified as could be expected of one in his circumstances. It was resolved, that Mr. Ettinger be licensed.

2.) Mr. Brown made a request for ordination. It was resolved that he be ordained this evening in the church, and that Messrs. Helffrich, Wagner and Rahauser be the committee of ordination.

3.) A letter from the Rev. Dr. Livingston was read before Synod, in which he requests that young ministers be sent to the German Reformed churches in the State of New York, and also that a fraternal correspondence be opened between our Synod and that of the Reformed Dutch Church. With respect to the sending of ministers, it was resolved, that, if there be any one among us who has a desire to visit those congregations, we will send him to them. It was also resolved to open a fraternal correspondence with the Dutch Reformed Synod.

4.) The matter in relation to the churches in York county was again taken into consideration, when it was resolved, that Mr. Helffenstein have permission to accept the call from York county.

After the condition of both congregations, together with all the circumstances, were laid before him by the Synod, it was left to him to act in the matter according to his convictions of duty after a mature consideration of the subject.

5.) A further request was made by the congregations in Chester county, that the Synod adopt a resolution to the effect that the congregations of Mr. Herman should allow him to serve them on the Sabbath. It was resolved, as the opinion of Synod, that the congregations of Mr. Herman should grant him the permission desired.

6.) A letter from the congregations of Mr. Weber was read, in which they request that they may be written to in reference to one Pfriemer, that a young man may be sent to them, and that a minister from our connection may visit them. It was resolved, that they be written to in reference to Pfriemer, but that we have no minister to send them.

7.) The standing committee for the present year was elected, and consists of Messrs. Helffrich, Wagner, Wack, Sen., and Herman.

8.) It was resolved, that the next annual meeting of Synod be held in Reading, on the fourth Sabbath after Easter, of the coming year.

Here follows in the original the subscription of the names of the ministers and elders present. This, however, is a true copy of the original.

MINUTES OF 1804.

In accordance with the resolution of the last annual meeting at Lebanon, the members of the Rev. Synod assembled in Reading on the 29th of April, 1804, at which time a sermon, very appropriate to the occasion, was preached by the Rev. Mr. Rahauser, President *pro tem.*, from Rev. 3: 20.

MEMBERS PRESENT.—Messrs. Rahauser, *President*, Helffrich, Wack, Sen., Runkel, Pauli, Hendel, Faber, Hoffmeier, Geistweidt, Gobrecht, Jr., Pomp, Jr., Senn, Helffenstein, Hiester, Wack, Jr., C. Helffenstein, Vondersloot, Becker, *Secretary*. Candidate, Mr. Ettinger.

ABSENT.—Messrs. Otterbein, Wagner, (excused,) Pomp, Sen., (excused,) Gobrecht, Sen., (excused,) Jacob Wack, Güting, Hautz, Dreyer, (excused,) Stock, Hinsch, Herman, (excused,) Hoffman, Brown, Christman, Dieffenbach, Eisenberg, Weber.

FIRST SESSION.

Monday Morning.

1.) After Mr. Rahauser, President, and Mr. Becker, Secretary elect for the present year, as also the members of the Rev. Assembly had taken their seats according to order, in the court house in this place, the session was opened with prayer by the President.

2.) The members of the Rev. Synod present, were called upon to give a faithful report both in reference to the internal and external condition of their congregations, and to the manner in which the duties of the ministry were discharged. The several reports made furnished manifest evidence that peace generally prevails, as well as certain visible tokens that the blessing of God has accompanied the preaching of his Word.

3.) Complaints were preferred against Mr. Güting on account of disorderly conduct. The following question was submitted for consideration by the President, Mr. Rahauser, and seconded by Mr. Runkel: Shall the matter in relation to Mr. Güting be postponed another year, and he be earnestly admonished to abstain from his disorderly conduct; or shall he, according to the proposition of Mr. Becker, be expelled from Synod, without any delay? After a lengthy discussion, in which reasons were assigned in favor and against the propositions submitted, it was

Resolved, That he be expelled from Synod. This resolution was adopted by a vote of 20 against 17. He can, however, at any time be restored, on giving evidence of a true reformation.

SECOND SESSION, P. M.

1.) The license of the candidate Mr. Ettinger, was unanimously renewed for another year.

2.) The proceedings of the last annual meeting were read. In this connection Mr. Helffrich reported, that Mr. Vondersloot had been ordained according to the direction of Synod.

3.) The excuses of Messrs. Wack, Sen., Faber and Pomp, Jr., for absence at the last meeting, were accepted.

4.) The congregation at Bellman's church, requested, that Mr. Hendel might preach a sermon to them only during the longest days. It was left to Mr. Hendel to decide, whether his strength would admit of his preaching three times on the Sabbath, during the longest days.

5.) A request for a minister was received from the congregations at Jacob's, Eckerts, New Church, and Greenwich. As their request could not be acceded to at present, Messrs. Gobrecht, Jr., Helffrich, and Vondersloot, were directed to preach to these congregations from time to time.

6.) A petition was read from the congregation at Philadelphia, in which they request the Rev. Synod to come to their assistance in their present sad condition, inasmuch as a total separation is to

be feared, from the fact, that there is a strong party amongst them, who desire a sermon in the English language every two weeks. It was hereupon resolved, that the congregation be written to without any reference to their parties, and have represented to them in a friendly manner, the great danger which threatens this flourishing congregation from an unhappy separation, and they also be earnestly exhorted, to walk together in brotherly love and to act in such a manner, in connection with their pastor, as the welfare of the congregation requires.

7.) The standing committee for the present year was chosen, and consists of Messrs. Rahauser, Helffrich, Wack, Sen., and Wagner.

8.) It was resolved, that the next annual meeting of Synod be held in Lancaster, on the first Sabbath after Easter in 1805.

Here follows in the original the subscription of the names of the ministers and elders present. This, however, is a true copy of the original.

MINUTES OF 1805.

In accordance with the resolution of the last annual meeting at Reading, Pa., the members of the Reverend Synod assembled in Lancaster, on the 12th of May, 1805, on which occasion the Rev. Mr. Hoffmeier, preached in the room of Dr. Becker, President, *pro tem.*, a sermon adapted to the occasion from Eph. 4: 11-13.

The members present were:

Dr. Becker, President, *pro tem.*, Mr. Hoffmeier, Secretary, *pro tem.*, Messrs. Helffrich, Wagner, Runkel, Rahauser, Pauli, Hendel, Faber, Geistweidt, Hinsch, Pomp, Jr., Helffenstein, Sen., Hiester, Wack, Jr., Dieffenbach, Dreyer, Candidate Ettinger.

The absentees were:

Messrs. Otterbein, (excused,) Pomp, Sen., (excused,) Gobrecht, Sen., (excused,) Wack, Sen., (excused,) Herman, Senn, Hoffman, Gobrecht, Jr., Brown, (excused,) Christman, Eisenberg, (deceased,) Weber, (excused,) Vondersloot, (excused.)

Monday Morning.

FIRST SESSION.

1.) After Dr. Becker, President elect, and Mr. Hoffmeier, Secretary elect for the present year, and also the members of Synod had taken their seats according to order, in the School house in this place, the meeting was opened with prayer by the President.

2.) The members of Synod present were called upon to render a faithful report of the external and internal condition of the

congregations and of the manner in which the duties of the ministry were discharged. The several reports presented furnished manifest evidence of the general prevalence of peace and here and there also tokens of the great blessings resulting from the preaching of the divine Word.

3.) In this connection, the proceedings of the last annual meeting were read, according to the "Synodal Ordnung." Mr. Brown, who was absent last year, transmitted a letter assigning as his excuse for absence from the last meeting and also from the present one, the great distance of his residence from the place of meeting, and other pressing circumstances, which excuse was accepted. Mr. Caspar Wack likewise assigned sufficient reasons for absence and was excused. The absence of Mr. Vondersloot was also excused for important reasons assigned.

SECOND SESSION, P. M.

1.) The delegates from such congregations as are vacant were called upon to present such letters as contain calls, which were received and read.

2.) The congregation at Carlisle sent in a call to the young Mr. Jonathan Helffenstein, with the request, that he be placed over them as their pastor. As, however, he has not yet been examined, the question was proposed: Shall he be examined with reference to this particular object?

3.) This question was answered in the affirmative, and Messrs. Wagner, Hendel, Hinsch and Dreyer were appointed the committee of examination.

4.) The call of the congregation in Baltimore to Mr. Dreyer, of which he had already accepted, was confirmed by the Synod.

5.) A request was received from the German congregation in New York, asking the Synod to furnish them with a minister as soon as possible.

6.) Resolved, that permission be given to such members of Synod, as can preach in the English and German languages, to accept of a call from this congregation, provided their own congregations do not sustain injury thereby.

7.) A request was received from several congregations in the neighborhood of Linn township, to provide them with a minister.

8.) According to the resolution of Synod, they shall be encouraged to expect to be provided after harvest with several sermons by way of visitation.

9.) A complaint was preferred against Mr. Hendel by several members of the Tolpenhocken congregation, in reference to a school house, which a part of the membership desire to build, but to which another and greater part are opposed.

10.) Resolved, that with a view to restore peace in this congregation, the building of this school house, be postponed another year.

11.) A complaint was preferred against Mr. Samuel Helffenstein, by the congregation at Philadelphia, in reference to preaching in the English and German languages; and a request made by the English portion of the congregation, to grant them permission to have at times services in the English language also.

12.) It was resolved by the Synod, that the English portion of the congregation be permitted to have at times services in the English language, by a German minister of our Synod, or by an English one; upon the condition, however, that no minister not connected with a Presbyterian Synod, be permitted to enter the pulpit, and not without the consent of the German minister.

Tuesday Morning.

FIRST SESSION.

1.) A request was made in behalf of several congregations in Northumberland, Sunbury, Middle Creek, &c., for a minister.

2.) It was resolved, that they be written to and assured that they shall be provided for, at the very first opportunity.

3.) Mr. Dieffenbach asked permission to resign his charge in consequence of his failing health. It was resolved by the Synod, that he be requested to delay pressing his resignation for two years yet, until another opportunity. Should the state of his health, however, become worse, he is at liberty to act according to his convictions of duty.

4.) The committee appointed to examine Mr. Jonathan Helffenstein, reported, that his examination resulted altogether satisfactorily, and that they accordingly found him qualified for the ministry.

5.) The question was then proposed: Shall this young Mr. Helffenstein be ordained?

6.) Resolved that he be ordained this evening, together with the Candidate Ettinger, and that Messrs. Becker, Hoffmeier and Pauli be the committee of ordination.

7.) The standing committee for this year was appointed, and consists of Messrs. Becker, Helffrich, Wagner and Runkel.

8.) Resolved, that the next annual meeting be held in Baltimore on the fourth Sabbath after Easter.

Here follows in the original the subscription of the names of the ministers and elders present. This, however, is a true copy of the original.

MINUTES OF 1806.

In accordance with the resolution of the last annual meeting at Lancaster, the members of the Rev. Synod convened in Baltimore on the 4th of May, at which time a sermon appropriate to the occasion was preached by the Rev. Mr. Hoffmeier, the President elect for the present year, from 2 Cor. 1:24.

The members present were:

Messrs. Hoffmeier, President, Hinsch, Secretary Otterbein, Wagner, Rahauser, Pauli, Hendel, Dr. Becker, Geistweidt, Helffenstein, Sen., Hoffman, Hiester, Brown, Dreyer, Helffenstein, Jr., Ettinger.

The absentees were:

Messrs. Pomp, Sen., Pomp, Jr., Gobrecht, Sen., Gobrecht, Jr., Wack, Sen., Wack, Jr., Herman, Senn, Christman, Weber, Vondersloot, (excused,) Dieffenbach, Faber, Helffenstein.

Monday Morning.

FIRST SESSION.

1.) After the Rev. Mr. Hoffmeier, as President for the present year, and Mr. Hinsch as Secretary, as also the other members of Synod present, had taken their seats according to order, in the church in Baltimore, the session was opened with an appropriate prayer by the President.

2.) The members present were called upon for a faithful and honest report in reference to the external and internal condition of the congregations, and to the manner in which the duties of the ministry were discharged. The reports presented furnished manifest evidence of the general prevalence of peace, and here and there indications also of the happy fruits of the preached word.

3.) As the congregation at Baltimore was interrogated in reference to their present condition, the delegate of the congregation, Mr. Michael Dieffenderfer, presented a communication, in which the members of the congregation expressed to Synod their earnest desire for permission to elect a teacher and pastor from amongst the members of Synod assembled, in the place of their minister who is about returning to Bremen in Germany. After some discussion, it was resolved to grant them their request.

Afternoon.

SECOND SESSION.

1.) The minutes of the last annual meeting were read, in accordance with the requirements of the "Synodal Ordnung." The excuse of Mr. Vondersloot for absence from the last meeting and also from the present one, was presented, which was of such a nature, that it was unanimously accepted.

2.) A letter was read from Mr. Weber of Pittsburg, in which he asks to be excused for his absence on account of his great distance from the place of meeting; and complains exceedingly of a certain man named Pfriemer, who has endeavored to make the congregation in that place believe, that he was ordained by this Synod. He wishes, therefore, a decisive and authenticated answer, in reference to this ordination. It was unanimously resolved by the Synod, that Mr. Weber, at his own request, be furnished with an answer in the English language, with the Seal of Synod attached, in order that he may therewith, as he himself expresses it, defend himself before the court; the contents of which shall be: That this man not only has not been ordained by the Synod, but also that this Synod pronounces his ordination performed by one individual member of Synod, as null and void.

3.) Letters from three vacant congregations in Paradise township were read, in which they express their desire, either that they may be furnished with a minister, or that at least, Mr. Ettinger, for whom they profess to have a particular liking, may be put in a position to serve them. As, however, Mr. Ettinger excused himself from serving them, on account of the large number of congregations to which he has already to preach, it was resolved, that these congregations must for the present be satisfied with preaching on week days from Messrs. Ettinger and Geistweidt.

4.) The congregation at Germantown, in a letter earnestly requested the Synod to interest itself in their behalf in their present destitute and distressed condition, and to grant them permission to invite members of Synod to visit them, and to call one of them as their pastor.

5.) A letter from the congregation at Chambersburg was read, in which they ask permission to make out a call to the Rev. Mr. Hoffman. It was resolved, that they be permitted to make out a call to Mr. Hoffman, and that he be permitted to accept it.

6.) In reference to the request of Mr. Aurandt and his congregations, to ordain him, and receive him into connection with Synod, it was, after some discussion, resolved to postpone the further consideration of it, until to-morrow morning, when it shall be disposed of in private session.

Tuesday Morning, May 6th.

FIRST SESSION.

1.) It was resolved at the private session of Synod, that Mr. Aurandt be examined by a committee consisting of the President, Secretary and Messrs. Wagner and Dreyer, with a view to ascertain whether he possesses the requisite qualifications for receiving a license.

2.) Sundry delegates from the Tolpenhocken congregation were present for the purpose of renewing the complaints made last year in reference to the difficulties amongst them. Several mem-

bers of Synod, however, deeply interested themselves in this congregation, and succeeded in bringing matters into such a position, that the parties at variance agreed to make efforts during the coming year to effect an adjustment of their difficulties among themselves. They desired, however, that a minute of this fact might be entered on record.

3.) The delegated elders of the several members of Synod were asked in public session by the President: Whether they were satisfied with the resolution adopted in private session, directing Mr. Aurandt to be examined by a committee of four persons, with a view to ascertain whether he possesses the requisite qualifications for receiving a license.

4.) It was concurringly resolved, that the case of Mr. Aurandt be thus proceeded with.

5.) Letters from two different parties in the congregation in Philadelphia, namely the German, and the so called German-English parties, were read. It was resolved, that the Synod will have nothing to do with these difficulties, because both parties have carried their matters into the civil court. Should, however, the German congregation desire a copy of the resolution adopted by the Synod of last year in reference to this subject, it shall not be refused them. This shall be done with the express understanding, that that resolution shall not be regarded as an express command of the Synod, which power it by no means arrogates to itself, and which would itself be contrary to the Constitution; but simply as an expression of its wish on the subject.

6.) After a letter from the Rev. Dr. Livingston, as the present President of the Low Dutch-English-Reformed congregations in the State of New York, was read, along with which were sent the Acts of their Synod, it was resolved, to continue the correspondence with them, and to send them the Acts of our Synod.

7.) The standing committee for the present year was elected, and it consists of Messrs. Hoffmeier, Wagner, Pauli and Dr. Becker.

8.) The President, Secretary, and Messrs. Dreyer and Wagner were appointed a committee to examine Mr. Aurandt, with authority to furnish him with a license in case he be found qualified.

9.) New Holland was chosen by a majority of votes, as the place for holding the next annual meeting of Synod.

Here follows in the original the subscription of the names of the ministers and elders present. This, however, is a true copy of the original.

MINUTES OF 1807.

In accordance with the resolution adopted at the last annual meeting at Baltimore, the members of Synod convened in New Holland on the 27th of April, 1807, at which time the Rev. Mr. Hinsch, the President elect for the present year, preached a sermon appropriate to the occasion, from Philip. 2: 5.

The members present were:

Messrs. Hinsch, President, Faber, Secretary, Helffrich, Wagner, Wack, Sen., Herman, Pauli, Hendel, Dr. Becker, Hoffmeier, Hiester, Pomp, Senn, S. Helffenstein, Hoffman, Wack, Jr., C. Helffenstein, Vondersloot, J. Helfstein, Dieffenbach.

The absentees were:

Messrs. Otterbein, Rahausen, Brown, Ettinger, Gobrecht, Sen., Gobrecht, Jr., Christman, Weber.

MONDAY.

First Session, A. M.

1.) After the Rev. Mr. Hinsch, as President, and Mr. Faber, as Secretary, and also the other members of Synod present, had taken their seats according to order in the church at New Holland, the session was opened with an appropriate prayer.

2.) The members present were called upon to give a faithful and conscientious account of the external and internal condition of their congregations, and also of the manner in which the duties of the ministry have been discharged. Their several reports furnished manifest evidence that peace and harmony generally prevails in the congregations, and that the preaching of the word is attended here and there with evident tokens of good.

3.) The committee to whom the case of Mr. Aurandt had been referred, submitted a report in reference to the *tentamen* they held with him. The question was proposed: Shall the case of Mr. Aurandt be disposed of according to the "Synodal Ordnung?" which was decided in the affirmative.

SECOND SESSION, P. M.

1.) A request was received from the congregation at Lower Saucon for permission to connect itself with the Easton congregation. Their request was granted, and permission accordingly given them to connect with the congregation at Easton, on the condition, however, that they obtain the consent of the congregations with which they have hitherto stood connected.

2.) The question was proposed: "Shall young Mr. Dieffenbach be examined?" which was answered in the affirmative, and the examination ordered to take place this evening.

3.) It was resolved, that, at the request of the Pipe creek and Creagerstown congregations, the young Mr. Rahauser be examined this evening, and ordained, in case he be found qualified.

4.) It was resolved, that the young Mr. Lewis Mayer be examined this evening. The committee of examination consists of Messrs. Wack, Sen., Hendel and Pomp. The examination is to take place at candle lighting in the house of Mr. Shirk, Esq.

5.) A request was made by Mr. Pauli, in behalf of a young man of the name of Dechant, that a *tentamen* be held with him, and in case it result satisfactorily, he be received as a Catechet, with the understanding that he be aided in his undertaking. It was resolved that a *tentamen* be held with him to-morrow morning between 7 and 9 o'clock, by the committee appointed above, and at the same place there specified.

As Mr. Aurandt was licensed last year, on the condition that he should diligently prosecute his studies during the year, and it is therefore necessary that he give evidence of having complied with this condition before his license can be renewed, it was resolved that a *tentamen* be held with him by the above committee in connection with Mr. Dechant.

6.) Inasmuch as several vacant congregations sent in requests for pastors, which, however, could not be complied with for the want of ministers, it was resolved, that they be visited by neighboring ministers, until other arrangements can be made.

7.) Several congregations in Berks county presented a call to Mr. Wack, Jr. As, however, he has not accepted of it, Rev. Henry Dieffenbach was requested to visit and preach to these congregations, and to accept of a call from them, in case he and they can come to terms.

8.) Complaints were presented from the Tolpenhocken congregation in reference to difficulties in their midst. It was resolved that a committee be appointed to investigate these difficulties and report to-morrow morning. The committee consisted of Rev. Messrs. Becker, Hoffmeier, and Senn, and Elders Conrad and Arndt, Esq.

Tuesday Morning.

1.) Mr. Runkel excused his absence from Synod on sufficient grounds, and promised to attend the next annual meeting of Synod. It was resolved in reference to the case of Mr. Aurandt, that his license be renewed for another year.

2.) The committee to whom was referred the case of the Tolpenhocken congregation, reported. It was resolved that it is the duty of both parties to unite with each other in a brotherly and Christian manner.

3.) It was resolved, that the surplus funds that remain from the publication of the "Synodal Ordnung" be appropriated to the support of young Mr. Dechant, in the prosecution of his studies under the direction of Dr. Becker.

4.) Messrs. Hinsch, Herman and Hoffman were appointed a committee to ordain Messrs. Mayer and Dieffenbach in this place.

5.) Messrs. Becker, Wagner and Pauli were appointed the standing committee for the present year.

6.) Finally, it was resolved that the next annual meeting of Synod be held in Germantown on the fourth Sabbath after Easter.

Here follows in the original the subscription of the names of the ministers and elders present. This, however, is a true copy of the original.

MINUTES OF 1808.

In accordance with the resolution of the last annual meeting at New Holland, the members of the Reverend Synod assembled in Germantown, on the 15th of May, 1808, on which occasion, the Rev. Mr. Faber, the President elect for the present year, preached an appropriate and edifying sermon, from Col. 3: 23.

The members present were:

Messrs. Faber, President, Geistweidt, Secretary, Helffrich, Wack, Sen., Runkel, Rahausen, Pauli, Hendel, Becker, Hoffmeier, Pomp, Senn, S. Helffenstein, Hiester, Wack, Jr., C. Helffenstein, Ettinger, Rahausen, Jr., Dieffenbach, Gobrecht, Jr., J. Helffenstein, Candidate Aurandt.

The absent members were:

Messrs. Hinsch, Wagner, (excused,) Herman, Vondersloot, Dieffenbach, Brown, Gobrecht, Sen., (*emeritus*) Christman, Weber, Mayer.

MONDAY.

First Session, A. M.

1.) After the Rev. Mr. Faber, as President, and Mr. Geistweidt, as Secretary, as also the other members of Synod present, had taken their seats according to order in the church at Germantown, the session was opened with an edifying prayer.

2.) The Reverend members were called upon to present a true report, according to the best of their knowledge, of the state of their congregations. According to the reports presented, it appeared that peace prevails in the congregations, and that there is reason to believe that good has been effected in their midst.

3.) A call was received from Goshenhoppen and Great Swamp congregations to Mr. Albert Helffenstein.

4.) A request for a minister was received from several congregations in Berks county. The Synod unanimously resolved, that the congregations shall be provided for. Mr. Becker agreed, that

Mr. Meyer, who is at present pursuing a course of study, shall visit the congregations this summer.

5.) A call was received from Harrisburg to Mr. Gloninger, with the request to place him over them as their pastor.

6.) A call was received from several congregations, a part of which lie in Pennsylvania and a part in Maryland, to Mr. Becker, with the request to place him over them as their pastor.

7.) It was resolved that the candidates, Messrs. Runkel, Jr., Gloninger, Schaffner, Becker and Helffenstein, be examined this evening. The committee of examination consists of Messrs. Helffrich, Wack, Hoffmeier and Senn.

8.) A call was received from Manheim, Maytown and other congregations to Mr. Schaffner.

SECOND SESSION, P. M.

1.) A call was received from several congregations in Northumberland county, namely, Sunbury, Middle creek, Bauermans, Beaverdam, and Mohrs church, to Mr. Adams. It was resolved that Mr. Adams be examined as to his knowledge of the fundamental principles of the Holy Scriptures.

2.) Complaints were received in reference to Mr. Vondersloot, because he left the congregations of Lehigh, Warren township and Indianland. The question was proposed, Whether the congregations shall be notified thereof by letter? It was answered in the affirmative.

3.) Complaints were presented from the congregation at Philadelphia, and that from the English party, against Mr. Helffenstein. Synod, however, resolved not to interfere in the matter, and that no reply should be returned to the complaining party.

TUESDAY MORNING.

Third Session.

1.) A request for a minister was received from several congregations in Lykens Valley. It was resolved that they be informed by letter, that they will be provided for as soon as possible.

2.) The committee who were appointed to examine the several candidates last evening, reported, that the young gentlemen sustained a perfectly satisfactory examination. It was resolved, that these young men be ordained this evening. Messrs. Faber, Geistweidt and Hoffmeier were appointed the committee of ordination.

3.) Mr. Adams of Northumberland county presented himself, accompanied with a delegated elder, Mr. Bollender, Esq., and inasmuch as the congregations in that section of country have presented a call to Mr. Adams, and Mr. Adams has sustained a satisfactory examination, it was resolved, by the Reverend Synod, that permission be given to Mr. Adams to accept their call.

4.) Messrs. Pauli, Wagner and Becker were appointed the Standing Committee for the present year.

5.) It was resolved that Mr. Dechant be examined in September next in Fredericktown, and that he be ordained in case his examination shall be satisfactory. The following persons were appointed the committee of examination and ordination, namely Messrs. Wagner, Rahauser and Hinsch.

6.) According to the resolution of the Synod at Germantown, the next annual meeting is to be held in Hagerstown, on the fourth Sunday after Easter.

Here follows in the original the subscription of the names of the ministers and elders present. This, however, is a true copy of the original.

MINUTES OF 1809.

Acts of the Synod of the German Reformed Church convened in Hagerstown, May 1st, 1809.

In accordance with the resolution of the last annual meeting held at Germantown, the members of the Synod of the German Reformed Church in the United States of North America, convened as above; on which occasion an appropriate sermon was preached by the Rev. Mr. Geistweidt, the President elect for the present year.

The members present were:

Messrs. Geistweidt, President, Helffenstein, Sen., Secretary, Rahauser, Sen., Faber, Becker, Hoffman, Helffenstein of Germantown, Brown, Rahauser, Jr., Mayer, Dieffenbach, Becker, Jr., Gloninger, Helffenstein of Goshenhoppen, Schaffner, Adams, Dechant, Aurandt.

The absent members were:

Messrs. Wagner, [excused,] Hinsch, [excused,] Herman, [excused,] Hoffmeier, Pauli, [excused,] Vondersloot, Helffrich, Gobrecht, Christman, Wack, Sen., Wack, Jr., Senn, Helffenstein of Carlisle, Ettinger, Dieffenbach, [excused,] Hendel, Pomp, Runkel, Sen., [excused,] Runkel, Jr.

MONDAY, A. M.

First Session.

ART. 1.) After the Rev. Mr. Geistweidt, as President, and Mr. Helffenstein, Sen., as Secretary for the present year, as also the other members of Synod, had taken their seats according to order in the church at Hagerstown, the session was opened with an appropriate prayer.

ART. 2.) The members of Synod present were called upon to give a faithful and honest report of the external and internal con-

dition of their congregations, as also of the manner in which the duties of the ministry were discharged. From the reports presented, it appeared that, for the most part, peace and prosperity characterizes the different congregations.

ART. 3.) As several congregations did not, contrary to the "Synodal Ordnung," send any delegated elders to Synod, and that on account of the expenses connected with the journey, it was

Resolved, That these congregations be admonished by letter, and notified to act in future strictly in accordance with the "Synodal Ordnung."

ART. 4.) In accordance with the requirements of the "Synodal Ordnung," the minutes of the last annual meeting were read.

ART. 5.) Mr. Adams presented his testimonials from Germany, with which the Synod was fully satisfied, and accordingly received him as a member of Synod.

ART. 6.) In accordance with the resolution of the last annual Synod, Mr. Dechant was ordained to the ministry by the committee appointed for that purpose.

ART. 7.) A call was presented from several congregations in Penn Grove township, and Rünk's church, to Mr. Philip Moyer.

Resolved, That Mr. Moyer be examined, and ordained, in case he be found qualified; and that he accordingly be permitted to accept the call. The committee of examination consists of Messrs. Rahauser, Faber and Helffenstein, Sen.

ART. 8.) The Chestnut Hill congregation requested, that divine service might again be held in their old church by Mr. Dechant. As the Synod did not deem it expedient to grant this request, it was

Resolved, That the above named congregation be informed of this fact by letter.

ART. 9.) The standing committee of the last year was continued for the present year also.

SECOND SESSION, P. M.

ART. 1.) The committee appointed to examine Mr. Moyer reported that his examination was well sustained. It was

Resolved, That he be ordained this evening.

It was likewise resolved that Mr. Aurandt also be ordained at the same time. Messrs. Rahauser, Faber and Helffenstein, Sen., were appointed the committee of ordination.

ART. 2.) *Resolved*, That those ministers who have not yet subscribed to the "Synodal Ordnung," be reminded of their duty to do so at the next annual meeting.

ART. 3.) It was resolved by a majority of the votes to hold the next annual meeting at Harrisburg, Pa.

Here follows in the original the subscription of the names of the ministers and elders present. This, however, is substantially a true copy of the original.

MINUTES OF 1810.

In accordance with the resolution adopted at the last annual meeting, the Reverend Synod of the German Reformed Church in the United States of North America, convened in the church at Harrisburg, on this day, the 21st of May, A. D. 1810. Rev. Samuel Helffenstein of Philadelphia, was chosen President, and Mr. Herman of Falconer Swamp, Secretary.

The members present were:

Rev. Samuel Helffenstein, President, F. Herman, Secretary, Rahauser, P. Pauli, Faber, Hendel, Hoffmeier, Geistweidt, Hinsch, Hiester, Ch. Helffenstein, H. Dieffenbach, Vondersloot, J. Helffenstein, Rahauser, Dieffenbach, Becker, Jr., Gloninger, Schaffner, A. Helffenstein, Dechant, Adams, P. Moyer.

The absentees were:

Rev. N. Pomp, T. Pomp, C. Wack, Sen., G. Wack, Jr., Dr. Becker, Helffrich, Senn, L. Mayer, Aurandt, Gobrecht, Jr., Runkel, Jr., Brown, Ettinger, Christman, Hoffman.

MONDAY MORNING.

First Session.

1.) The session was opened according to order, with an appropriate prayer by the President. The ministers present were then called upon for a faithful report of the external and internal condition of their congregations, and of the manner in which the duties of the ministry have been discharged. The several reports presented agreed in stating, that peace prevails in the congregations, and that the gospel has been every where preached, not without indications of favorable results.

2.) Messrs. Vandersloot, Hoffmeier, Hendel and Jonathan Helffenstein rendered satisfactory excuses for their absence from the last annual meeting.

3.) Several congregations in Chester county, requested in a communication, that Mr. Charles G. Herman might be placed in a position to administer the holy sacraments. The request was not granted. It was, however, resolved, that he be examined by a committee, and in case his examination is sustained, the committee be authorized to ordain him. The committee appointed for this purpose consisted of Messrs. Pauli and F. Vandersloot.

4.) A certain Mr. Pulverich asked to be received into connection with Synod. As, however, sundry complaints were presented against his character and his course of life, it was resolved, that the Synod will have nothing to do with him in any manner whatever.

5.) Two calls were received from congregations in the State of Ohio. They were read. The one came from Springfield township, Columbiana county, and was subscribed by three congregations. The other came from seven congregations in Montgomery county, Ohio.

Resolved, That these congregations be replied to by letter, and have encouragement extended to them.

6.) Mr. Wagner recommended by letter a Mr. Fries for examination, and also for ordination in case he be found qualified. A committee was appointed to examine him, consisting of Messrs. Rahauser, Hoffmeier and Hinsch.

7.) The congregation at Germantown requested by letter, that they may be visited; and that they may be permitted to call a minister from our connection. It was resolved, that a favorable answer be returned to the congregation.

8.) The affairs of Rev. Mr. Vandersloot and the Lehigh congregation shall be thoroughly investigated, and a committee consisting of three ministers and three elders were appointed to attend to this duty. The committee consisted of Rev. Mr. Herman, Hendel and Geistweidt, and Elders Messrs. Mickel, Scherdel and Knaus.

9.) Mr. Kroll applied for examination and ordination. Resolved, that the same committee be appointed to examine Mr. Kroll which has been appointed to examine Mr. Fries.

MONDAY AFTERNOON.

Second Session.

1.) The committee of examination reported, and it was resolved that Mr. Fries be licensed, and Mr. Kroll be received as a Catechet.

2.) The committee appointed to investigate the case of the Lehigh congregation, and the Rev. Mr. Vandersloot reported, that the two complainants are unwilling to submit to the rules of Synod; and the Synod resolved that the congregation in Lehigh township, be informed by letter of their conduct.

3.) The congregation of Mr. Wagner in Fredericktown shall be informed by letter, that they are permitted to call a minister from our connection.

4.) The standing committee for this year consists of Messrs. Pauli, Faber, and Hendel.

5.) The place for holding the next annual meeting was voted for by the ministers and elders, and according to the majority, it is to be held in Reading on the fourth Sabbath after Easter.

This is a true copy of the original.

MINUTES OF 1811.

The Rev. Synod of the German Reformed Church in the United States of North America, convened on this day, the 12th of May, A. D., 1811, in Reading. Rev. Frederick Herman, of Falconer Swamp, was chosen President, and Philip Pauli of Reading, Secretary.

The members present were:

Frederick Herman, President, Philip Pauli, Secretary, Caspar Wack, William Runkel, Jonathan Rahauser, John T. Faber, William Hendel, John Henry Hoffmeier, John Gobrecht, George Geistweit, Thomas Pomp, Samuel Helffenstein, William Hiester, George Wack, Henry Dieffenbach, John Brown, Jonathan Helffenstein, Rahauser, Jr., Jacob Dieffenbach, Philip Gloninger, Albert Helffenstein, William Dechant, John Aurandt, Philip Moyer, Charles G. Herman, Licentiate Fries, Catechet Kroll.

The absentees were:

Messrs. Otterbein, Gobrecht, Sen., Pomp, Sen., Weber, Becker, Sen., Hinsch, Senn, L. Mayer, Charles Helffenstein, Vandersloot, Becker, Jr., Runkel, Jr., Schaffner, Adams, Jacob Wack.

MONDAY MORNING, MAY 13TH.

First Session.

1.) The session was opened with an appropriate prayer by the President, after which the members present were called upon to report as to the external and internal condition of their congregations. The reports presented coincided in stating, that peace prevails in the congregations, and that the preaching of the gospel is not without its good results.

2.) The ministers present who were absent from the last annual meeting, were interrogated as to the cause of their absence; and the excuses of Messrs. Wack, Sen., Runkel, Gobrecht, Jr., Wack, Jr., Brown, Vandersloot and Hinsch were accepted.

3.) The committee which was appointed at the last annual meeting to examine Mr. Charles G. Herman, and to proceed in his case according to order, reported, through Mr. Pauli, that they found him qualified for the ministry, and as he had received a call from congregations, ordained him. The Synod approved of the course of the committee, and accordingly received him as a member, yet, according to the rules of Synod, only as an honorary member for the first year.

4.) A man by the name of Pulverich, who applied for examination at the last annual meeting, but was denied on account of his bad character, made application again. It was resolved, however, that the position assumed in reference to his case by the last Synod be adhered to. The two elders who accompanied him were

furnished with a letter to their congregations, in which they were advised to withdraw themselves from the said Pulverich, and to unite with the Hoffman's and Negley's congregations, to which encouragement should be given that by another year they would be furnished with a minister. This latter information was also communicated to the Hoffman's and Negley's congregations.

5.) The congregation at Fredericktown sent in a call to Mr. Gloninger. The Harrisburg congregation, at the same time, sent in a communication, requesting that Mr. Gloninger be continued as their pastor. As, however, Mr. Gloninger decided to remain in his present congregations, the attention of the delegate from Fredericktown was directed to the resolution adopted at the last annual meeting in relation to that congregation.

AFTERNOON.

Second Session.

6.) A communication was presented by Peter Mahnenschmidt from four congregations in Washington county, requesting that he may be examined. As, however, the Synod was not acquainted with him, a committee was appointed to inquire into his circumstances, and into such other matters as they may deem necessary, and to report on to-morrow morning. The committee consists of Messrs. Hendel, Hoffmeier and Gloninger.

7.) The congregations in Strasburg, York county, which have been served by the Licentiate Fries, asked for his ordination. The question was proposed: Shall Mr. Fries be ordained, or his license renewed for another year? It was unanimously resolved that his license be continued for another year.

8.) The congregations in Luzerne county, which have been served by the Catechet Kroll, requested that he be placed in a position to administer the holy Sacraments. There were, however, so many complaints made against him in reference to the vice of drunkenness, that the question was proposed and put to vote: Shall the permission hitherto granted him as a Catechet, be continued another year? A large majority voted in favor of his not being considered any longer as a Catechet. This resolution was carried into effect, and he informed of the fact.

9.) Mr. Dieffenbach, Jr., stated that he had left the congregations he had heretofore served, and had accepted of a call from three congregations which had previously belonged to the congregations of Mr. Helffrich, deceased. His course was disapproved of as unconstitutional. As, however, Mr. Dechant stated that he had promised to visit several of these congregations, he was requested to endeavor to persuade them to continue in their former connection, and to receive Mr. Dieffenbach, Jr., as their pastor, at least for one year.

TUESDAY MORNING, MAY 14TH.

Third Session.

10.) The committee which was appointed yesterday to inquire into the circumstances of Peter Mahnenschmidt, and into such other matters as they may deem necessary, submitted the following report through Mr. Hendel: "This young man expressed regret for his error committed in baptizing children, and stated that he did it through ignorance. In other respects he is worthy of being received." It was thereupon resolved, that he be received as a Catechet, and visited as often as possible by Mr. Aurandt.

11.) The three congregations, Greencastle, Miller's and Mercersburg, in Franklin county, which are served by Mr. Rahausen, Sen., made a request to be received as congregations of the Synod. Their request was granted, and they informed thereof by letter.

12.) The congregations which heretofore were served by Mr. Dieffenbach, Jr., requested, inasmuch as he has left them, to be furnished with another minister. It was resolved that they be permitted to make out a call to a member of this Synod, and that they, in the mean time, be visited by several of the neighboring ministers. They were informed of this resolution by letter.

13.) Mr. Dreyer, who had returned from Europe, and accepted a call from New York, requested to be received again as a member of Synod. It was resolved, that action on his request be deferred until the next annual meeting.

14.) Mr. Hoffmeier suggested, that it was necessary to adopt some regulations, with regard to individuals who apply to be received into the ministry. It was resolved, that hereafter every one who is received into the ministry, after he has been examined, shall be continued a licentiate for three years before he can be ordained, and no one can be ordained before he is twenty one years of age.

15.) Mr. Vandersloot informed the Synod, that he had left the congregations he had heretofore served, and accepted of a call from the congregation at Germantown. The call was confirmed by Synod.

16.) Mr. Wack, Sen., requested Synod, that the congregation at Hartwick, Sussex county, New Jersey, which cannot be supplied by us, be permitted to be supplied under the direction of the Classis of New Brunswick. The request was granted.

17.) The standing committee for the present year consists of Messrs. Faber, Hendel and Hoffmeier.

18.) It was decided by a majority of votes, that the next annual meeting be held in Philadelphia, on the fourth Sunday after Easter.

Here follows in the original, the subscription of the names of the ministers and elders present. This, however, is a true copy of the original.

PHILIP PAULI, *Secretary.*

MINUTES OF 1812.

The Reverend Synod of the German Reformed Church in the United States of North America, convened on this day, the 27th of April, A. D., 1812, in Philadelphia. Mr. Philip Pauli, of Reading, was chosen President, and Dr. Christian Lewis Becker of Baltimore, Secretary. Mr. Philip Pauli preached on the occasion a very edifying sermon from 2 Cor. 4: 5.

The members present were:

Messrs. Philip Pauli, President, Dr. C. L. Becker, Secretary, C. Wack, F. Herman, Sen., Wm. Runkel, Wm. Hendel, John Th. Faber, John H. Hoffmeier, John Gobrecht, Thomas Pomp, Samuel Helffenstein, Wm. Hiester, F. Vandersloot, George Wack, Charles Helffenstein, Lewis Mayer, Jonathan Helffenstein, Rahauser, Jr., J. Ch. Becker, Jr., Philip Gloninger, A. Helffenstein, H. Schaffner, Wm. Dechant, Charles G. Herman, Licentiates Fries, Hoffeditz and H. Gerhart. Catechet Mahnenschmidt.

The absentees were:

Messrs. Otterbein, Gobrecht, Sen., Pomp, Sen., Weber, Hinsch, (excused,) Senn, Jona. Rahauser, (excused,) H. Dieffenbach, D. Auranndt, J. Brown, J. Dieffenbach, (excused,) Philip Moyer, Runkel, Jr., Adams, (second time,) Geistweit, (fully excused.)

Monday Morning.

FIRST SESSION.

1.) The session was opened with an appropriate prayer by the President, after which the members present were called upon to report the state of their congregations. The reports presented were unanimous in presenting the external and internal condition of the congregations in a favorable light.

2.) The members present, who were absent from the last annual meeting, were interrogated as to the cause of their absence. The excuses of Dr. C. L. Becker, Lewis Mayer, Charles Helffenstein, J. Christian Becker, Jr., H. Schaffner, and Mr. Hoffman, were accepted.

3.) The Beaver township congregation and the seven others connected with it, earnestly requested a minister to be sent to them. It was resolved that the congregation be informed, that we will provide for them as soon as possible.

Afternoon.

SECOND SESSION.

4.) The congregations at Youngmanstown, Longstown, &c., requested the Reverend Synod, to send to them Mr. Fries, as their pastor. As, however, his present congregations do not wish to part

with him, Rev. Messrs. Hendel, Pomp, Becker, Jr., and elders Bechtel, Reitzel and Dreisbach were appointed a committee to take the subject into consideration and report on it to-morrow.

5.) The congregations of Mr. Peter Mahnenschmidt which he has heretofore served as a Catechet, requested that he be licensed. It was resolved, that he be examined by a committee, consisting of Messrs. Faber, Wack, Jr., and Gloninger, who also are to examine Mr. Rassman.

6.) The congregations in Lykens valley requested, that Mr. James R. Reily be examined in the fall and placed over them as their pastor, which request was unanimously granted. A similar request was unanimously granted in reference to Mr. Jacob Wiestling, which came from the congregations in Manchester, &c.

7.) Complaints were lodged by Mr. Hoffmeier against Mr. Adams on account of his bad course of life. It was resolved, that Mr. Adams be notified to attend the next annual meeting of Synod, and defend himself against the complaints laid against him; of which proceeding his congregations also shall be informed. In case he does not appear, however, he shall be excommunicated.

8.) In reference to the request of the Weissenberg congregation, it was resolved, that they be written to and directed to apply to Mr. Dieffenbach, Jr., whose duty it shall be to take charge of them.

9.) It was resolved, that Messrs. James R. Reily and Jacob Wiestling be examined at Baltimore, by a committee consisting of Messrs. Herman, Sen., Rahauser, Sen., and Jonathan Helffenstein.

10.) It was further resolved, that Messrs. Henry Gerhart and Hoffeditz be examined by Messrs. Wack, Sen., Hoffmeier and Gobrecht.

11.) The question was proposed, Shall the rule, requiring young men to be licentiates for three years, remain as it is; or shall additions be made to it? A majority decided, that additions should be made to it.

Tuesday Morning.

THIRD SESSION.

12.) A letter was received from Dr. Helmuth, requesting the Synod to support the "Evangelical Magazine." It was resolved, that it be earnestly recommended to the ministers and elders to accede to this request.

13.) The committee appointed in article 4, reported, that in their opinion, it would be best for Mr. Fries to leave his present congregations, and accept of the call from the congregations at Youngmanstown, &c. This report was unanimously adopted.

14.) It was resolved, that the Catechet Mr. Peter Mahnenschmidt and Mr. Rassman be licensed. The license of the former, on account of the great distance of his residence from the place of meeting, shall extend through three years, but in the case of

Mr. Rassman the rule of the "Synodal Ordnung" shall be observed.

15.) The committee appointed to examine Messrs. Hoffeditz and Gerhart reported, that they found them qualified, and recommended that they be licensed, which recommendation was adopted. Mr. Gerhart accepted of a call from Bedford, and Mr. Hoffeditz of one from Mt. Bethel and Hamilton.

16.) The disposition of the subject resolved upon in article 11, in the second session of yesterday, was postponed until the next annual meeting.

17.) At the request of Mr. Pauli, it was resolved, that a committee be appointed to examine his son in Reading. The committee consists of Messrs. Herman, Faber and Hendel.

18.) On motion of Mr. Mayer, seconded by Mr. Hoffmeier, it was resolved, to send certain ministers to the western country, in order to visit the members of our Church residing there. The following four particulars were resolved upon with a view to carry out this object: 1.) That certain ministers be appointed for this purpose. 2.) That for their support, a collection be taken up in each congregation. 3.) That Messrs. Dechant and Hendel be, at their own offer, appointed to make this journey, the former during the present, and the latter, during the coming year; and 4.) That Mr. Samuel Helffenstein of Philadelphia be appointed the Treasurer to receive the monies collected for this object.

19.) In reference to the question: Shall the congregation in New York be regarded as in regular connection with this Synod, from the time its name was entered on our records? it was unanimously resolved, that it shall be so regarded.

20.) It was resolved, that at the next annual meeting and at every subsequent annual meeting, every minister shall furnish a statement, containing the names of the congregations to which he preaches, and the number of baptisms, confirmations, communicants and deaths, for the current year. This statement shall be subscribed by the minister and delegated elder.

21.) Dr. C. L. Becker, seconded by Messrs. Wack and Herman, proposed, that an Evangelical Magazine be annually published under the supervision of the Reverend Synod. It was resolved, that a publication be issued annually. It was also resolved, that this duty be entrusted to a committee of five persons consisting of Messrs. Pauli, Dr. Becker, Herman, Hoffmeier and Hendel.

22.) Mr. Runkel, Jr., requested to be dismissed from connection with Synod. It was resolved, that his request be granted, and that he be furnished with a certificate stating the position he occupied as to his examination.

23.) A complaint was received from several members of the congregation in Philadelphia against Rev. Samuel Helffenstein. It was referred to a committee consisting of five ministers and five elders, viz: Rev. Messrs. Wack, Hendel, Herman, Faber, Dr. Becker, and Elders Shirk, Bomberger, Dieffenderfer, Aurandt,

and Reitzel. The committee found, that the points of complaint proceeded partly from misunderstanding and partly from design, and the Reverend Synod endeavored to reconcile the two parties, and if not successful, severely to reprimand the complainants.

24.) The standing committee consists of Messrs. Faber, Hoffmeier and Hendel.

25.) The place for holding the next annual meeting of Synod is Fredericktown.

This is a true copy of the original.

MINUTES OF 1813.

In accordance with a resolution adopted at the last annual meeting at Philadelphia, the members of Synod convened in Fredericktown, on the 16th of May, A. D., 1813, on which occasion an appropriate sermon was preached by the Rev. Dr. Becker, President, from Colossians 1: 28, 29.

The members present were:

Messrs. Dr. Becker, President, Wm. Hendel, Secretary, Runkel, Sen., Rahauser, Sen., Hoffmeier, Geistweit, Hinsch, Samuel Helffenstein, Hoffman, Charles Helffenstein, Dieffenbach, Jr., Jonathan Helffenstein, Rahauser, Jr., Dieffenbach, Sen., Becker, Jr., Gloninger, Schaffner, Albert Helffenstein, Licentiates Fries, Henry Gerhart, Hoffeditz, Rassman, Reily, Wiestling, Pauli, Jr.

The absentees were:

Messrs. Otterbein, Gobrecht, Sen., Weber, Pauli, Sen., (excused,) Senn, Aurandt, Brown, Pomp, Sen., Wack, Sen., (excused,) Herman, Sen., Herman, Jr., Faber, (excused,) Gobrecht, Jr., (excused,) Pomp, Jr., (excused,) Hiester, Wack, Jr., Lewis Mayer, Philip Moyer, Vandersloot, Dechant, Licentiate Mahnenschmidt.

Monday Morning.

FIRST SESSION, MAY 17.

1.) After the Rev. Dr. Becker, as President, and Wm. Hendel, as Secretary, and the other members present had taken their seats according to order in the church, the session was opened by the President with an appropriate prayer.

2.) After the 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th articles of the 8th section of the "Synodal Ordnung" had been read, it was unanimously resolved, that in case any member shall transgress the one or the other of these articles, he shall be first brotherly admonished by the President to observe order, and if such admonition be without effect, he shall forfeit his vote and seat in Synod.

3.) As it was ascertained, that two delegates from the Reformed Dutch Synod of the State of New York were present in Fredericktown, a committee was appointed by the President, consisting of Messrs. Gloninger and Schaffner, to receive them with becoming respect and introduce them to Synod.

4.) The members present were called upon for a faithful report both as to the external and internal condition of their congregations, and as to the manner in which their ministerial duties have been discharged. The reports presented furnished manifest evidence that peace prevails in nearly all the congregations, and also indications of the fact that the divine blessing has attended the preached word.

5.) As the congregations in Lykens valley, sent simply a communication along with their pastor to Synod, instead of a delegate, it was resolved, that their apology be accepted in the present instance, but that they be admonished to conform fully to the requirements of the "Synodal Ordnung" in future.

6.) The Licentiates Hoffeditz, Fries and Gerhart, handed to the President their Journals and Sermons, as required by the "Synodal Ordnung." Messrs. Geistweit, Jonathan Helffenstein, and Rahauser, Jr., were appointed a committee to examine these documents and to report the result to Synod.

7.) At the request of the President, the Secretary informed the delegates from the Reformed Dutch Synod of the State of New York, that the Synod was now ready to attend to the object of their mission. They accordingly laid on the table a copy of the Proceedings of their last annual meeting in which it was found that the following resolution was referred to a committee:

"That in addition to the correspondence by letter which the General Synod held in 1804, with the German churches in America, which is ordered to be continued, the Synod do now appoint a delegation of three ministers to attend the next stated meeting of the German Reformed Synod in the spring of 1813, with a view to afford said Synod the best evidence of that fraternal regard which the Reformed Dutch Church entertains for the German brethren, and to arrange such a plan of intercourse between the Churches as shall tend to promote the prosperity of both."

The said committee submitted the following report:

"As there is already a partial correspondence carried on with the Reformed German Church in Pennsylvania by letter, and a mutual interchange of Synodical Minutes, your committee recommend that said correspondence be increased by the appointment of a delegation of three members from this body to the German Reformed Synod of Pennsylvania, and inviting a similar arrangement on their part to the Particular Synod of New York, or to the General Synod."

"This report was adopted by the Synod, and it was resolved, that Messrs. Bork, Cannon and Peter Labaugh be the delegation called for in the report."

The subject was referred to a committee consisting of five ministers and four elders. Rev. Messrs. Hoffmeier, Hinsch, Samuel Helffenstein, Gloninger and Hendel, and Elders Riesch, Dieffenferfer, Humrickhaus and Judge Harper constituted this committee.

8.) Complaints were preferred at the last annual meeting against Mr. Adams on account of immoral conduct, and a resolution was then adopted directing that he be notified thereof by letter, and requested to defend himself against the charges preferred. As, however, instead of doing so, he has sent a letter, in which he requests that his name be stricken from the roll of Synod, it was accordingly resolved, that his request be granted; and that Mr. Adams be thus expelled from Synod.

9.) As, according to the 12th article of the Proceedings of the last annual meeting, when the question was propounded: "Shall the rule, requiring candidates for the ministry to be licentiates for three years, remain as it is; or shall additions be made to it?" it was decided by a majority of votes, "that additions should be made," it was resolved at the present meeting, "that the rule requiring candidates for the ministry who have pursued a regular course of study, to be licentiates for three years, continue in force; those, however, who have not thus pursued a regular course of study, shall be licentiates for three years at least, or for a longer time, as the Synod may judge best in each individual case."

Closed with prayer.

MONDAY AFTERNOON SESSION.

Opened with prayer.

10.) Mr. Jonathan Helffenstein reported in behalf of the committee appointed to examine Messrs. Reily and Wiestling, which was fully satisfactory to Synod.

11.) In like manner the Secretary of the present year reported, in behalf of the committee appointed to examine Mr. Pauli and authorized to license him in case the way be open, that they examined and licensed him accordingly. This report was also adopted by Synod.

12.) Resolved, that in future all young men who are licensed, shall, prior to taking charge of congregations, make a missionary tour to distant destitute regions and devote to this important and necessary work as a missionary a period of two or three months; except only in such cases where there shall be sufficient cause for not complying with the requisitions of this article.

13.) It was unanimously resolved, that those ministers who have not yet taken up collections for defraying the travelling expenses of missionaries, and transmitted the proceeds to the Treasurer, shall still do so; and that the monies collected for this purpose, which have not yet been used, be loaned by the Treasurer, Samuel Helffenstein, at interest on good security.

The session was closed with prayer.

TUESDAY MORNING SESSION, MAY 18th.

Opened with prayer.

14.) The committee, to which was referred the proposition from the Reformed Dutch Synod of the State of New York, submitted their report, which recommended, that the said Synod be met with a respect and love similar to that it has evinced, and that two ministers of our Synod be sent as delegates to attend the next meeting of Synod. This recommendation was adopted, and the Rev. Messrs. Gloninger and Samuel Helffenstein appointed the delegates called for. This resolution was communicated to the delegates of the Reformed Dutch Synod, and a written copy of it furnished them.

15.) The committee to whom were referred the journals and sermons of the licentiates Fries, Gerhart and Hoffeditz for examination, submitted a report, affording full satisfaction.

16.) Resolved, that Mr. Fries be ordained this evening, after he has sustained a satisfactory examination, by a committee consisting of Messrs. Dr. Becker, Hoffmeier and Hendel.

17.) Several requests and calls were received from destitute congregations and neighborhoods, in which their sad condition on account of the want of the ordinary means of grace, was very feelingly portrayed. The Synod was so situated at the present time, as to be able to relieve their wants only in part, but not altogether.

Three urgent petitions of this nature were received from congregations in the State of North Carolina, in which they most earnestly entreat Synod to send them a minister or at least some one to visit them. Four of these congregations are located in Guilford, Orange and Randolph counties, namely, Peace church, Grace church, Stone church, and Zion's church. Others again are situated in Lincoln county, &c. A petition was also received from Rowan county, namely from the Ebberts creek congregation. The Synod therefore appointed the Rev. James R. Reily as missionary to this region, and adopted a resolution allowing him \$30 a month for travelling expenses, besides the incidental support he might receive from the congregations themselves.

Three petitions of like import with the preceding, from the State of Ohio, were also read by the President. Four of these congregations constitute a pastoral charge, of which two are situated on the Great Miami, the one on the East, and the other on the West bank; and of the other two, the one is called the Lexington, and the other the Twin creek congregation.—The second petition is from congregations in Stark county, and the third from congregations in Lancaster and vicinity, in said State of Ohio.—The Synod could not do anything at present for these congregations in Ohio; they were, however, led to hope, that in future it would be able to send them missionaries.

18.) Two calls were received from vacant congregations; the one from eight congregations in Northumberland county, namely,

Hassingers, Beaverdam, Ritters, Straubstown, Bauermans, Selinsgrove, Rows' and Moser's valley congregations, desiring Mr. Isaac Gerhart as their pastor, and the other from four congregations, namely Springfield, Nocamixum, Durham and Tinicum, desiring Mr. Samuel Stæhr as their pastor.

19.) The committee consisting of Messrs. Rahauser, Sen., Hinsch, and Jonathan Helffenstein, appointed to examine Messrs. J. Henry Fries, Gerhart and Stæhr, reported, that they found them qualified for the ministry. Resolved, that the two last named be licensed and permitted to accept the calls tendered them.

20.) On motion of Mr. Hinsch, it was resolved, that in connection with the ordination of Mr. Fries this evening, public prayer shall be offered in behalf of the missionary appointed to North Carolina, with special reference to his important and praiseworthy undertaking.

21.) It was also at the same time ordered, that the congregations of Mr. Reily be supplied by the neighboring ministers during his absence, and that the congregations be informed of this resolution by letter.

22.) A communication from the congregations of Mr. Weber, in Hempfield township, Westmoreland county, was read, in which they earnestly request, that a young minister be sent to them, inasmuch as their old pastor, on account of his great age and infirmities is not able to attend properly to the duties of his office. It was resolved, that hereafter, as soon as possible, their request shall be granted.

23.) As two congregations on the West side of the Susquehanna, namely Selinsgrove and Rows congregations, belonging to the district from which Mr. I. Gerhart has received a call, were taken charge of by Mr. Reily before they had any prospect of getting a minister in the charge, at the advice of Mr. Reily both congregations were willing to submit to the decision of Synod the question, whether they should in future be supplied by Mr. Reily or Mr. Gerhart? It was unanimously resolved, that Mr. Reily, after he had preached to them twice more, shall transfer them to Mr. Gerhart.

24.) The critical and sad condition of our country was taken into consideration; and it was unanimously resolved, to recommend to our congregations to observe the first Thursday in August, as a day of humiliation and prayer. It was also resolved, to seek the co-operation of the Synod of the Lutheran Church in this matter; and likewise to transmit a petition for a similar purpose to the Hon. Governor of this State.

25.) It was observed with heart felt sorrow, that Mr. Senn has now been absent for the fourth year, from the meeting of Synod, and unanimously resolved, that Mr. Senn be emphatically reminded of his duty, and as emphatically censured on account of his absence.

26.) The Standing Committee consists of Messrs. Faber, Hoffmeier and Hendel.

27.) The place of the next annual meeting of Synod is Womelsdorf, Berks county, Pa.

This is substantially a true copy from the original.

The sessions of Synod were closed with fervent prayer.

The following reports of the number of baptisms, confirmations, communicants and deaths, were handed to the Secretary at the present meeting in Fredericktown, in accordance with the resolution adopted by Synod at its annual meeting last year, as contained in the twentieth article in the proceedings.

	<i>Congr.</i>	<i>Bapt.</i>	<i>Confr.</i>	<i>Comm.</i>	<i>Deaths.</i>
Dr. Becker,	1	63	20	156	34
Mr. Hendel,	7	209	128	698	95
“ Wack, Sen.,	4	92	19		12
“ Pauli, Sen.,	1	219	80		82
“ Geistweit,	1	64	49	107	6
“ Samuel Helffenstein,	1	210	50	900	98
“ Hoffman,	5	90	49		8
“ Jonathan Helffenstein,	3		140	200	30
“ Rahauser, Jr.,		108	29	232	14
“ Becker, Jr.,		130	94		
“ Gloninger,	5	289	90	688	54
“ Schaffner,		71	37	249	17
“ Albert Helffenstein,	7	103	45	304	
“ Fries,	9	171	67	685	47
“ Henry Gerhart,	4	55	57	151	17
“ Hoffeditz,	3	130	88	242	16
“ Rassman,	5	100	81	45	
“ Mahnenschmidt,			46		
Total,	56	2103	1096	4357	530

MINUTES OF 1814.

In accordance with the resolution of the Synod at its last annual meeting in Fredericktown, the members convened in Womelsdorf on the 8th of May, 1814, on which occasion, the Rev. Samuel Helffenstein, preached in the place of the Rev. Wm. Hendel, President, an appropriate sermon from 2 Cor. 3: 2, 3.

The members present were:

Messrs. Hendel, President, Thomas Pomp, Secretary, Caspar Wack, Wm. Runkel, Herman, Sen., Pauli, Sen., Faber, Hoffman, Geistweit, Gobrecht, Sen., Samuel Helffenstein, Hiester, Wack,

Jr., Charles Helffenstein, Dieffenbach, Sen., Vandersloot, Jonathan Helffenstein, Rahausen, Jr., Dieffenbach, Jr., Becker, Jr., Schaffner, Albert Helffenstein, Dechant, Aurandt, Philip Moyer, Herman, Jr., Licentiate, Henry Gerhart, Hoffeditz, Rassman, Reily, Wiestling, Pauli, Jr., Stæhr, Isaac Gerhart.

The absentees were:

Messrs. Dr. Becker, Hinsch, Rahausen, Sen., Gloninger, (excused,) Hoffman, Gobrecht, Sen., Brown, Pomp, Sen., Lewis Mayer, (excused,) Fries, Weber, Licentiate Mahnenschmidt, (excused.)

MONDAY MORNING.

First Session, May 9th, 1814.

1.) After Mr. Wm. Hendel, as President, and Mr. Thomas Pomp, as Secretary, and the other members present had taken their seats according to order in the church, the session was opened with an appropriate prayer by the President.

2.) As it was ascertained that two delegates from the Dutch Reformed Synod of the State of New York were present in Womelsdorf, namely Messrs. Labach and Broadhead, it was resolved to introduce them to seats in our Synod as honorary members. Accordingly, the President appointed Messrs. Senn and Helffenstein a committee to introduce them to the Synod.

3.) The members present were called upon to report in relation to the external and internal condition of their congregations. The reports presented coincided in stating, that peace prevails in the congregations and that in general the preaching of the gospel is not without happy results.

The session was closed with prayer.

MONDAY AFTERNOON.

Second Session.

4.) After the session was opened with prayer, the committee, consisting of Messrs. Samuel Helffenstein and Gloninger, appointed to attend the meeting of the Synod of the Reformed Dutch Church, reported, that the duty assigned them was not attended to, in consequence of the sickness of Mr. Gloninger. Hereupon the delegates, from the Dutch Synod were requested to present to Synod the subject of their mission, to which request they acceded, and the substance of their statement was, that it is the cordial desire of the Dutch Synod, that the intercourse commenced between the two Synods might be continued. It was therefore resolved to appoint delegates, who shall attend the meeting of the Dutch Synod, and that the expenses of the delegates be paid out of the monies collected for Missions. Hereupon the President appointed Messrs. Wack, Sen., Hendel and Samuel Helffenstein the said delegates.

5.) As at the last annual meeting the absence for four years of Mr. Senn, was noticed, and at the same time it was resolved that he be reminded of his duty, he was accordingly called upon for the reasons of absence, which he tendered, and being fully satisfactory to Synod, his absence was excused.

6.) Mr. Reily, who was appointed by the Synod of last year as a missionary to visit the vacant congregations in North Carolina, reported at the present meeting, that he successfully performed his journey, and has reason to believe, that his mission was followed by the blessing of God.

7.) Mr. Aurandt was called upon for his excuse for absence from the last annual meeting, which he presented, and it was fully satisfactory to Synod.

8.) Mr. Herman's excuse for absence from the last annual meeting was unanimously accepted.

9.) Messrs. Hiester, Wack, Jr., Philip Moyer, and Dechant were called upon for their excuses for absence from the last annual meeting, which they presented, and they were also unanimously accepted.

10.) A letter was received from several congregations in South Carolina, in which they expressed an earnest desire to be furnished with a minister, and as their request had special reference to Mr. Hauck who for some time had preached in that neighborhood, that they might obtain him as their pastor, it was resolved that a committee be appointed to examine Mr. Hauck. The President appointed Messrs. Runkel, Faber and Gobrecht as this committee.

11.) Mr. Scholl presented a call which he received from several congregations in York county; whereupon the President appointed the above named committee to examine Mr. Scholl at the same time with Mr. Hauck; and to report the result of the examination at the next session.

12.) The President, Mr. Hendel, read a letter having reference to himself, in which a request was made by four congregations, that the Synod should decide of which of the congregations Mr. Hendel should take charge. A committee, consisting of Rev. Messrs. Hoffmeier, Herman, Sen., Pauli, Sen., and Geistweit, and Elders, General Hiester, Engel and Reigel, was appointed to take the subject into consideration, and report at the next session.

13.) Two letters were read, one from Bloomsburg, (Brier creek,) and the other from Washington county, in which they urgently requested to be provided with a minister; whereupon it was resolved, that the said congregations be informed that Mr. Sellers, who is prosecuting his studies with the Rev. Samuel Helffenstein, will shortly visit them.

14.) The Licentiates, Messrs. Henry Gerhart, Hoffeditz, Rassman, Reily, Wiestling, Pauli, Jr., Stæhr, and Isaac Gerhart, presented their sermons and journals; whereupon the President appointed Messrs. Senn, Wack, Jr., and Hiester as a committee to

examine the said sermons and journals, and to report the result at the session of to-morrow morning.

15.) Mr. Dechant tendered a satisfactory reason for not having performed his journey to the State of Ohio promised two years ago, but offered to do it during the present year; whereupon the Synod appointed him a missionary to the said State of Ohio.

This session also was closed with prayer.

TUESDAY MORNING.

Third Session, May 10th.

16.) After the third session was opened with prayer, a letter addressed to the Synod by Mr. Gloninger was read. Mr. Gloninger complains therein very much of bodily infirmities, and requests, in case he should be obliged on account of these infirmities, to resign his pastoral charge, and the congregations he serves should call another minister belonging to Synod, that said minister be permitted to accept said call. It was resolved, that the request of Mr. Gloninger be granted.

17.) The committee to whom was referred the matter relating to Mr. Hendel, reported as follows: That Mr. Hendel shall continue to preach to the congregations he has hitherto served, and at the end of a year, he shall confine himself to the two so called "*Upper congregations.*"

18.) The committee appointed to examine Messrs. Scholl and Hauck, submitted a written report, stating, that the examination of both of the young men afforded them full satisfaction, and requesting Synod to license them. It was resolved that the said young men be received as licentiates, and that the license of Mr. Hauck, on account of the great distance of his residence, be extended for three years, with the understanding, however, that Mr. Hauck annually furnish the Synod with a written report of his ministerial labors. It was further resolved to pay him \$30, out of the funds collected for Missions.

19.) The committee which was appointed to examine the sermons and journals of the Licentiates, reported, that they have all been very diligent in their ministerial labors, and recommended that their license be renewed; which recommendation was adopted.

20.) Inasmuch as the General Synod of the Reformed Dutch Church has manifested a willingness, to maintain a Christian and brotherly intercourse and communication between the two Synods, in such a way as will best promote the interests and prosperity of both Churches. And inasmuch as this Synod cherishes a cordial affection for their brethren of the Reformed Dutch Synod, and is likewise willing to adopt certain measures adapted to strengthen this affection and to promote their mutual interests; it is therefore

Resolved, That the corresponding delegates appointed to attend the General Synod to be held in the City of New York in June next, shall be and are herewith directed to propose to the Synod to carry on the Correspondence on the following plan:

1.) Each Synod shall receive the delegates of the Sister Church in a brotherly and becoming cordial manner, and provide them with suitable lodgings during the sessions of Synod.

2.) The delegates shall present their certificates of appointment at the opening of the Sessions, and shall thereupon be invited to take their seats as advisory members; that is, they shall have a right to express their views on subjects, which relate to the general interests of the Church, and can contribute to the promotion of religion; they shall, however, not be allowed to vote on any question that may come before the Synod.

Resolved, That a copy of the above plan, or minute, translated into the English language, be laid before the Synod of the Reformed Dutch Church, by the delegates from this Synod.

21.) Mr. Wack, Sen., tendered verbally to Synod his reasons for leaving his old congregations, and accepting of a call from the Germantown congregation, which were deemed satisfactory and he accordingly was excused.

22.) Mr. Wack, Sen., stated, that the Presbyterians in the State of New Jersey, have enticed away from us several of our congregations; whereupon Messrs. Wack, Sen., and Samuel Helffenstein were appointed a committee to remind the Presbyterians of their transgression, by letter.

23.) The standing committee for the year consists of Messrs. Wack, Sen., Herman, Sen., and Helffenstein, Sen.

24.) The next annual meeting of Synod is to be held in Easton, Pa., on the fourth Sabbath after Easter, 1815.

The Synod was closed with prayer.

A true copy from the original.

The following statistical reports were handed to the Secretary at the present annual meeting.

	<i>Congr.</i>	<i>Bapt.</i>	<i>Confr.</i>	<i>Comm.</i>	<i>Deaths.</i>
Mr. Pauli, Sen.,	1	255	98	511	77
“ Gobrecht,	4	120	36	471	28
“ Hiester,		124	49	419	28
Jacob Dieffenbach,	6	97	93	412	24
Jonathan Helffenstein,		150	30	300	50
Mr. Dechant,	4	108	93	447	38
Wm. Pauli,		99	19	101	47
F. Rahauser,		103	35	215	20
Mr. Schaffner,		83	43	253	33
“ Reily,		159	169	594	17
“ Hoffeditz,		128	60	309	12
“ Wiestling,		151	135	516	29
H. Gerhart,		90	60	104	8
Isaac Gerhart,		80	88	256	15
		55	160		19
T. Pomp,		175	126	501	27
Total,		1977	1299	5409	472

MINUTES OF 1815.

The Synod of the German Reformed Church in the United States of North America, assembled on this day, the 23rd of April, A. D. 1815, in Easton, Pa. Rev. Thomas Pomp was chosen President, and the Rev. Caspar Wack, Secretary. Dr. Christian Lewis Becker preached in the room of the President, the Rev. Mr. Pomp, an appropriate sermon from 2 Cor. 13: 13.

The members present were:

Messrs. Thomas Pomp, President, Caspar Wack, Secretary, William Runkel, Frederick Herman, William Hendel, John T. Faber, Dr. Christian L. Becker, John Henry Hoffmeier, Jacob Senn, Samuel Helffenstein, William Hiester, George Wack, Charles Helffenstein, Frederick William Vandersloot, Henry Schaffner, Albert Helffenstein, F. Wm. Dechant, Philip Moyer, Charles S. Herman, J. Henry Fries, Licentiates Mahnenschmidt, Henry Gerhart, Hoffeditz, Rassman, Reily, Wiestling, Pauli, Stæhr, Isaac Gerhart, Scholl.

The absentees were:

Messrs. Pauli, Sen., (deceased,) Geistweit, (excused,) Hinsch, (excused,) Rahauser, Sen., (excused,) Hoffman, (excused,) Gobrecht, Sen., (Superannuated,) Brown, (excused,) Weber, Gobrecht, Jr., (excused,) Jonathan Helffenstein, (excused,) Lewis Mayer, (excused,) Aurandt, Gloninger, (excused.)

MONDAY MORNING.

Monday Morning, April 24th.

1.) After the members of Synod present had assembled in the church, in this place, the session was opened with prayer by the President, and the members took their seats according to order. The Rev. John Schureman and Charles Hardenburg appeared in the Synod as corresponding delegates from the General Synod of the Reformed Protestant Dutch Church in North America, and handed to the President a copy of the "Acts and Proceedings of their General Synod at their last Sitting at New York, June, 1814," which was gratefully received and laid on the table, and the Rev. J. Schureman and Charles Hardenburg were cordially recognized as corresponding members, and invited to sit as advisory members of this Synod.

2.) The members present were called upon to report in reference both to the external and internal condition of their congregations; and the reports presented coincided in stating, that peace prevails throughout the congregations; and that the preaching of the Gospel is not without its beneficial results.

The session was closed with prayer.

MONDAY AFTERNOON.

Second Session.

It was moved by Mr. Hoffmeier and seconded by Dr. Becker, that in future it be more earnestly insisted upon, in accordance with the 12th article of the acts of Synod for 1813, that Licentiates, before they enter upon their ministerial duties in their charges, shall make a tour to distant vacant congregations as missionaries, which tour shall occupy three or four months, and shall be made to no other neighborhoods and congregations than those designated by Synod; and that this resolution shall be most rigidly observed, except for the most satisfactory reasons. The resolution was adopted.

2.) Mr. Winters from the State of Ohio, and also Mr. Weinell, were proposed for examination as candidates for the ministry. At the same time, it was stated that several young men, who have studied with different ministers of this Synod, desire to be examined, namely Messrs. Habliston, Zeller and Herman. The President appointed Messrs. Dr. Becker, Senn and Dechant the committee of examination.

3.) Inasmuch as the Presbytery of New Brunswick sent an answer to the letter written to it by our Synod in reference to the German Reformed congregations in the Valley and at Foxhill, which had been taken under the care of the Presbytery, it was resolved in reference to the said letter of the Presbytery, that the congregations in the Valley and at Foxhill be written to in a friendly manner, as also the Presbytery, to the effect that this Synod regards the said congregations as belonging to our connection, and expects, that the Presbytery will permit Mr. Castner to connect himself with this Synod, and that the congregations will be served without departing from the order of our Church and especially from the instruction of the youth in the doctrine of the Reformed Church, according to the Heidelberg Catechism used in our churches.

4.) A committee was appointed, to inquire whether Mr. Rahouser, Jr., shall leave his present congregations and accept of a call from Bern township, and report their views in reference to the matter.

The committee consists of Messrs. Vandersloot, Hiester, and Elders Schuck and Roos.

The session was closed with prayer.

TUESDAY MORNING.

First Session, April 25th.

1.) The committee appointed to examine Messrs. Habliston, Zeller, Herman, Weinell and Winters reported, that after a careful examination, they have agreed to recommend the young men for license; with the desire and hope, that they will endeavor,

by untiring diligence, under divine assistance, to increase their knowledge. It was resolved that the report be adopted, and the young men licensed.

2.) The committee appointed to inquire whether Mr. Rahauser, Jr., shall leave his present congregations and accept of a call from Bern township, reported, that after a careful examination into the circumstances, it is the opinion of the committee, that Mr. Rahauser should remain in his present charge; which report was received and adopted.

3.) It was moved by Dr. Becker and seconded by Mr. Hendel, that the Licentiate Mr. Weinel, be sent as a missionary to North Carolina. It was resolved, that he be sent thither for the purpose of accepting of a call from congregations in that region, and serving them as their pastor; and that his support from this Synod for four months, be the same as that given monthly to other missionaries.

4.) In reference to Mr. Habliston, it was resolved that he be recommended as a licentiate to Greensburg, and that he take charge of the congregations there as pastor, in case arrangements can be made to that effect.

5.) The license of Messrs. Winters, Mahnenschmidt, and Rassman was extended through a period of three years; they are however, under obligation to report annually to Synod in reference to the discharge of their ministerial duties.

6.) Permission was granted to the Eppler's, Bellman's, and Bern congregations to make out a call to any minister belonging to our Synod, and any minister in our connexion shall be permitted to accept the said call, in a manner according with the provisions of the "Synodal Ordnung."

7.) A committee, consisting of Messrs. Wack, Jr., Becker, Jr., and elders Basbissel and Schollenberger, was appointed to investigate the affairs of the Manchester congregation, and to report at this afternoon's session.

8.) Mr. Dechant requested the Synod to decide whether he should remain in his present congregations, or remove to the State of Ohio. It was resolved, that he remain in his present congregations on the terms mutually agreed upon between him and his congregations.

TUESDAY AFTERNOON.

Second Session.

1.) In reference to the son of Mr. Ingold, formerly a minister in our connection, it was resolved, that collections be taken up in our churches to aid him in prosecuting his studies.

2.) In reference to the licentiates Henry Gerhart, Hoffeditz, and Reily, whose licenses have been continued through three years, and who also have furnished the Synod annually with good testimonials from their congregations as to the manner in which they

have discharged their ministerial duties; it was resolved, that they be ordained in their congregations towards the approaching fall. The committees appointed to attend to this duty, consisted of Messrs. Hendel and Hiester in the case of Mr. Reily; of Messrs. Becker, Jr., and Dechant, in the case of Mr. Hoffeditz; and of Messrs. Helffenstein and Dechant in the case of Mr. Gerhart.

3.) The congregation in Reading, having been, since the death of their worthy Pastor, Philip Pauli, supplied with preaching by the Rev. William Pauli, son of their deceased pastor, stated to Synod, that they have called the said William Pauli, as their pastor, and request the Synod to confirm their call, which request was granted.

4.) Resolved, That the congregation at Bloomsburg and the congregations associated with it, be permitted to make out a call to a minister connected with this Synod, and that they be informed by letter of this resolution.

5.) The committee appointed to investigate the matters relating to the Manchester congregation, reported, proposing that Mr. Wiestling be permitted to serve the congregation in the town of Manchester, called Zions church, until the end of his year, which will take place in six months, and that he then give the congregation over to the pastor of the congregations which are associated with it. The committee was further of the opinion, that, inasmuch as David's congregation stands connected with the Zion's, Krider's, Jerusalem and Allgeier's congregations, which connection has been confirmed by the joint purchase of a parsonage, this connection cannot be disturbed without the greatest injury to the remaining associated congregations, and that therefore this congregation at David's church, should continue its connection with the Manchester congregation, and seek to maintain a brotherly love and harmony amongst them. The Synod adopted this report, and desired that the course recommended may be pursued by the congregations interested.

6.) The committee appointed to examine the journals and sermons of the Licentiates, reported, that they are well satisfied with them, but desire that in future, they should note in their journals, not only the texts from which they preach, but also the mode of treating them.

7.) In reference to the Correspondence with the General Synod of the Reformed Dutch Church, the following action was had:

Inasmuch as, in consequence of the great distance to the places at which both Synods frequently meet, and of other inconveniences connected therewith, it is not possible always to send delegates from the one Synod to the other, it was

Resolved, That on the part of this Synod, every possible measure shall be taken on every occasion, to keep up the correspondence between the two Synods, by the transmission of the proceedings of our Synod, even though delegates may not be every time sent,

and as at the present time, the difficulties referred to occur, be it therefore further

Resolved, That the Secretary be directed to send a copy of the proceedings of this Synod to the Synod of the Reformed Dutch Church at its annual meeting to be held in the month of June next in the city of Albany.

8.) Mr. Dechant offered his services to Synod for the present year as a missionary to the State of Ohio, on the following conditions: 1.) That the Synod will allow his congregations to be supplied during his absence by the Rev. Mr. Sellers; 2.) That this missionary service rendered by Mr. Dechant shall be regarded as in the room of that which would be required of Mr. Sellers as a licentiate; 3.) That the remuneration to which Mr. Dechant will be entitled for his missionary services shall be paid to Mr. Sellers; And 4.) That thirty dollars of the missionary money to which Mr. Sellers shall be entitled, shall be paid to Mr. Winters, who, as a licentiate of Synod, is authorized to labor in the State of Ohio.

The Synod acceded to these propositions, and accordingly resolved, that the proposed arrangement should take place.

9.) The congregation in Rockaway, in Lebanon township, in the State of New Jersey, which has hitherto been in connection with this Synod, requested, that inasmuch as it appears, that it cannot be longer supplied with a minister from this Synod, it be permitted to seek a connection with the Reformed Dutch Synod of New York. It was therefore

Resolved, That the Reformed congregation at Rockaway, Lebanon township, New Jersey, be permitted to apply to the Synod of the Reformed Dutch Church in the State of New York and seek a connection with it.

10.) The Standing Committee for the present year consists of Messrs. Hendel, Herman, Sen., and Samuel Helffenstein.

11.) It was resolved by a majority of votes, that in consequence of the frequent difficulty of travelling in the Spring of the year, the time of meeting of Synod be changed to the Fall of the year: and that the next annual meeting be held on the first Sabbath in September, A. D. 1816. The place of meeting is New Holland, Lancaster county, Pa.

Hereupon the meeting of Synod was closed with prayer; and the next meeting appointed to take place on the first Sabbath in September, A. D. 1816.

This is substantially a true copy of the original.

The following statistics were handed to the Secretary at the present meeting:

	<i>Bapt.</i>	<i>Confir.</i>	<i>Comm.</i>	<i>Deaths.</i>
Rev. Thomas Pomp,	201	26	107	46
“ Caspar Wack,	31	16	80	14
“ Wm. Hiester,	124	83	483	32
“ Isaac Gerhart,	127	116	294	18
“ Frederick Scholl,	62	66	314	19
“ Jacob H. Wiestling,	96	13	490	
“ J. C. Becker,	134	37	275	38
“ Samuel Staehr,	78	84	374	16

 MINUTES OF 1816.

In accordance with the resolution adopted at the last annual meeting of the Synod, at Easton, the ministers with their elders assembled in New Holland, Lancaster county, Pa., on the 1st of September, A. D. 1816. Rev. Caspar Wack was elected President, and Rev. Wm. Hendel, Secretary. On the same day a very appropriate sermon was preached by the President from 2 Cor. 4: 5. On the following day Synod commenced its public sessions according to order in the German Reformed church in the above named place.

The members present were:

Ministers.

Caspar Wack, President,
Wm. Hendel, Secretary,
Wm. Runkel,
Frederick Herman, Sen.,

Elders.

Christian Ruth,

Ministers.

Jonathan Rahauser,
John T. Faber,
Dr. Becker, Sen.,
John Henry Hoffmeier,
George Geistweit,
Lebrecht Lewis Hinsch,
Thomas Pomp, Jun.,
Samuel Helffenstein,
William Hiester,
George Wack,
Charles Helffenstein,
John Brown,

Elders.

Daniel Schnebly,
Matthew Shirk, Esq.,
Daniel Dieffenderfer,
Jacob Frey,
____ Kremer,
Nicholas Dietrich,
Frederick Frey,

John Mohn,
George Scheib,
Henry Appleman,
John Follweider,

Ministers.

Frederick Wm. Vandersloot,
Jonathan Helffenstein,
Lewis Mayer,
J. Christian Becker, Jr.,
Philip Gloninger,
Henry L. Schaffner,
Albert Helffenstein,
Philip Moyer,
Charles S. Herman,
J. Henry Fries,
Henry Gerhart,
Theodore Hoffeditz,

Rlders.

Adam Levi,
George Lentz,
David Killmer,
Abraham Leyenberger,
—— —
Leonard Negeli,
Leonard Keller,
George Brown,
John Siegfried,
Frederick Gutelius,
—— —
Peter Hillgert, Esq.

Licentiates.

James R. Reily,
Wm. Pauli,
Samuel Stæhr,
Isaac Gerhart,
Frederick Scholl,
Daniel Zellers,
Wm. Weinel,
Henry Habliston,
Frederick Herman, Jr.,

Charles Muench,
Jacob Shearer,
George Hess,
John Rupp,
John Zellers,
John Romich,
George Thomas,
—— —
—— —

The members absent were:

Rev. Jacob Senn, Henry Dieffenbach, Jacob Dieffenbach, William Dechant, John Gobrecht, John Aurandt, Jacob Hoffman, Licentiates, Peter Mahnenschmidt, Jacob H. Wiestling, Rassman, Hauck, T. Winters.

MONDAY MORNING.

First Session, September 2nd.

1.) The session was opened by the President with an appropriate and fervent prayer. The members present were then called upon for a report of the manner of discharging the duties of their office and of the results of their labors, and also of the condition of their congregations. The reports presented coincided in stating that, as a general thing, peace and prosperity prevail in the congregations; that the preaching of the Gospel is not without its happy results, and that encouraging hopes are entertained with regard to the advancement and extension of the Church of Christ.

2.) The minutes of the last annual meeting were read.

3.) The members present who were absent from the last annual meeting were called upon for their reasons of absence. The excuses of Messrs. Hinsch, Rahausen, Sen., Brown and Lewis Mayer; and also the excuses of Messrs. Hoffman, Gobrecht, Mahnenschmidt, Rassman and Hauck communicated by letter, were accepted, and approved.

4.) On motion of Mr. Reily seconded by Mr. Vandersloot, it was *Resolved*, That Messrs. Hinsch, Pomp, Jr., and Reily be a committee to examine the different letters and written apologies for absence received, and report the result to Synod.

Closed with prayer.

MONDAY AFTERNOON.

Second Session.

1.) After the session was opened with prayer, complaints were received from a portion of the German Reformed congregation in and about Philadelphia against their pastor, Samuel Helffenstein. The written authority from the said portion of the congregation was read, from which it appears, that Messrs. Kohlman, G. Franck, and Leonard Miller were appointed a committee to represent them before the Synod. Messrs. Henry Riesh and Jacob Muench, were appointed a committee by the portion of the congregation favorable to their pastor, to present their interests before the Synod.

2.) Mr. Rahauser, Jr., was charged with not acting in accordance with the resolution of last annual Synod, in reference to accepting a call from the Harrisburg congregation. After the matter was investigated, however, it appeared, that the course of Mr. Rahauser proceeded from a misunderstanding and that, upon the whole, he was not censurable. It was, therefore, approved by the Synod.

3.) Upon inquiry into the operations of Mr. Weinel, appointed by the last annual Synod as a missionary to North Carolina, it was found, that his course did not give full satisfaction, both in reference to his missionary tour, and on account of his acceptance of a call from congregations in Westmoreland county. On motion of the Secretary seconded by Mr. Runkel, it was, after some discussion, resolved that Mr. Weinel be excused for this time; but that his case shall serve as a warning to all in future, to guard against the commission of similar errors.

4.) The tour of Mr. Habliston, who was appointed as a missionary to Greensburg, was approved and pronounced perfectly satisfactory.

5.) Inasmuch as Mr. Reily is employed in the State Legislature, and has duties to discharge there, it was resolved that his license be renewed for one year.

6.) *Resolved*, That Mr. Wiestling, according to the resolution of the last annual Synod, is no longer regarded as a member of this Synod, but is excluded from it; and that his congregations be notified thereof by letter, and at the same time kindly and earnestly admonished to rid themselves of so unworthy a person.

7.) Messrs. Runkel and Jonathan Helffenstein were appointed a committee to examine the journals and sermons of the licentiates, and to report the result to Synod.

8.) A call to Mr. Runkel from congregations in Emmitsburg, Md., and vicinity, was presented. The call and its acceptance were unanimously approved by the Synod, and, at the same time, confirmed.

9.) Calls were presented from vacant congregations in this State, namely, one to Mr. Helffrich from congregations in Lehigh county; another to Mr. M. Brunner from congregations in Sunbury and vicinity; and another to Mr. John Zuilch from five congregations in Lehigh county. These congregations severally request, that the young men referred to may be examined, and licensed, in case they are found qualified. Messrs. Rahausen, Sen., Hoffmeier and Becker, Jr., were appointed a committee to examine these young men, and also Mr. Weiss, who, if found qualified, shall be appointed to a mission.

10.) Dr. Becker requested the Synod to appoint a committee to examine Mr. Jacob Geiger during the coming spring in Lancaster, who has received a call from congregations in Manchester, Md., and vicinity. It was resolved, that Messrs. Geistweit, Hoffmeier and Hendel be a committee for the purpose specified, and that they be authorized to license Mr. Geiger, in case they find him qualified.

11.) A call from five congregations in Berks county in this State to Mr. Wack, Jr., was presented. It was resolved, that, in case Mr. Wack does not accept the call thus tendered him, any other member of Synod be permitted to accept a call from said congregations, in accordance with the provisions of the "Synodal Ordnung."

12.) The sad state of things in the congregation in Philadelphia and vicinity was taken into consideration. A committee of four ministers, namely, Messrs. Geistweit, Pomp, Jr., Faber and Hendel, and three Elders, namely, Messrs. Kremer, Muench and Shirk, Esq., was appointed to take this subject into consideration and report thereon to Synod.

This session also was closed with fervent prayer.

TUESDAY MORNING.

Third Session.

Opened with prayer.

1.) The committee consisting of Messrs. Runkel and Jonathan Helffenstein, to whom were referred the sermons and journals of the Licentiates, reported, that, so far as their leisure permitted them to extend their examination, they were favorably impressed in relation to the sermons and journals of Messrs. Reily, Frederick Herman, Jr., and Weinell.

2.) The committee of examination, consisting of Messrs. Rahausen, Sen., Hoffmeier, and Becker, Jr., reported, that they have examined the four young men who studied with Mr. Helffenstein, and found them fully qualified for the ministry.

3.) A letter was read purporting to contain a call to Mr. Weinell from congregations in Westmoreland county, where he is at present located. The question was then started, "Shall Mr. Weinell be placed over these congregations?" and it was unanimously answered in the affirmative. In this connection the remark was made by the President, that in future no candidate will be allowed to labor in any other congregations, than those which shall be designated by the Synod or the President of the Standing Committee.

4.) A letter from Long Swamp, requesting that Mr. Helffrich be placed over them as their pastor, was taken into consideration. Mr. Reily proposed that the letter should be answered; whereupon, after considerable discussion, it was resolved, that Mr. Helffrich be placed over them as pastor, and that the congregation be informed of this fact by letter, inasmuch as some in the congregation are opposed to the measure.

5.) The committee consisting of Rev. Messrs. Geistweit, Pomp, Jr., Faber and Hendel, and Elders Kremer, Shirk, Esq., and Muench, reported in reference to the difficulties in the Philadelphia congregation, as follows:

"That they have carefully examined all the documents from both parties and attentively listened to all verbal statements, and are unanimously of the opinion, that there is not a single ground of complaint at hand sufficient to justify the removal of Mr. Helffenstein from his congregation in Philadelphia. On the contrary, they are unanimous in the opinion, that his deportment, in the critical situation in which he was placed, has been such as became a faithful servant of the Lord."

6.) The Secretary stated, that Mr. Pauli desired, that after his three years probation as a Candidate shall have ended, he may be ordained. It was thereupon resolved, that Mr. Pauli, after he has sustained another examination, be ordained in his congregation in Reading. The committee appointed to attend to this duty consists of Messrs. Hoffmeier and Hendel.

A similar proposition was made in reference to Mr. Isaac Gerhart, and approved. The committee of ordination in his case consists of Messrs. Samuel Helffenstein, Rahauser, Jr., and Fries.

A similar proposition was also adopted in reference to Mr. Stæhr. The committee in his case consists of Messrs. Wack and Pomp, Jr.

7.) A resolution was offered in reference to the article relating to candidates for the ministry, inquiring into its particular bearing. After considerable discussion, it was resolved, that matters remain at present as they are, and that no further inquiry be instituted.

8.) The call to Mr. Zuileh from three congregations in Lehigh county was confirmed.

9.) Mr. Weiss was appointed a missionary to the State of Ohio, and after his return, he is to locate at Millerstown, Mifflin county, Pa.

10.) A resolution was offered by Mr. Hoffmeier in reference to the different requests from North Carolina, proposing that measures be taken to send a minister to them, according to the provisions of the Constitution. It was hereupon, resolved, that one or the other of the Candidates for the ministry instructed by Mr. Samuel Helffenstein, be appointed to this mission. As however, the Treasury is not at present in a condition to furnish the funds needed for travelling expenses, the matter was postponed until next Spring, when Mr. Samuel Helffenstein is authorized to appoint and send out one, in case the funds needed for travelling expenses, are in the Treasury.

11.) *Resolved*, That the expenses incurred in printing certificates of Licensure for Candidates be paid out of the Treasury of Synod.

12.) *Resolved*, That Mr. Samuel Helffenstein be continued as the Treasurer of Synod.

13.) *Resolved*, That a transcript of the proceedings of the present Synod, be sent to the General Synod of the Reformed Dutch Church in the United States of North America.

14.) *Resolved*, That a copy of the report of the Committee appointed to investigate the difficulties in the congregation at Philadelphia, and of the action of Synod upon it, be sent to the said congregation, accompanied with a kind and impressive admonition.

15.) The matters relating to the Presbyterians and Mr. Wack, Sen., remain as they were.

16.) The President proposed the question, whether it would not be more convenient and better adapted to our present condition as a Church, to divide the Synod into Classes, than to continue the present mode of organization. It was resolved, that this proposition be taken into mature consideration, and that it be postponed until the next annual meeting.

17.) A committee was appointed, consisting of Messrs. Wack, Jr., Herman, Sen., Hoffmeier, Pomp, Jr., and Hendel, to examine carefully the new "Gemeinschaftliche Gesangbuch," whether it accords with the doctrines of our Church; and report the result at the next annual meeting of Synod.

18.) The Standing Committee for the present year consists of the Rev. Mr. Wack, Sen., Herman, Sen., Pomp, Jr., and Samuel Helffenstein.

19.) *Resolved*, That the Proceedings of Synod be printed in future; and that to this end, each member be required at the next annual meeting to present a full written report, in which the name of the pastor, the number and names of the congregations, together with their location shall be given, and also the number of baptisms, confirmations, communicants and deaths.

20.) The next annual meeting is to be held in York, Pa., on the first Sabbath in September, A. D., 1817.

The meeting of Synod was closed with prayer.

Here follows in the original the subscription of the names of the ministers and Elders present. This, however, is substantially a true copy of the original.

So certifies

WILLIAM HENDEL, *Secretary.*

N. B. On Tuesday afternoon, after the special session of the ministers, held in accordance with our "Synodal Ordnung," had commenced, Dr. Becker proposed to the Ministerial assembly, that inasmuch as Mr. Stäge, through oversight, was not proposed for examination at the proper time, he be examined at the same time with Mr. Geiger. This proposition was agreed to, on condition, that it be subject to the approval of the Synod at its next annual meeting.

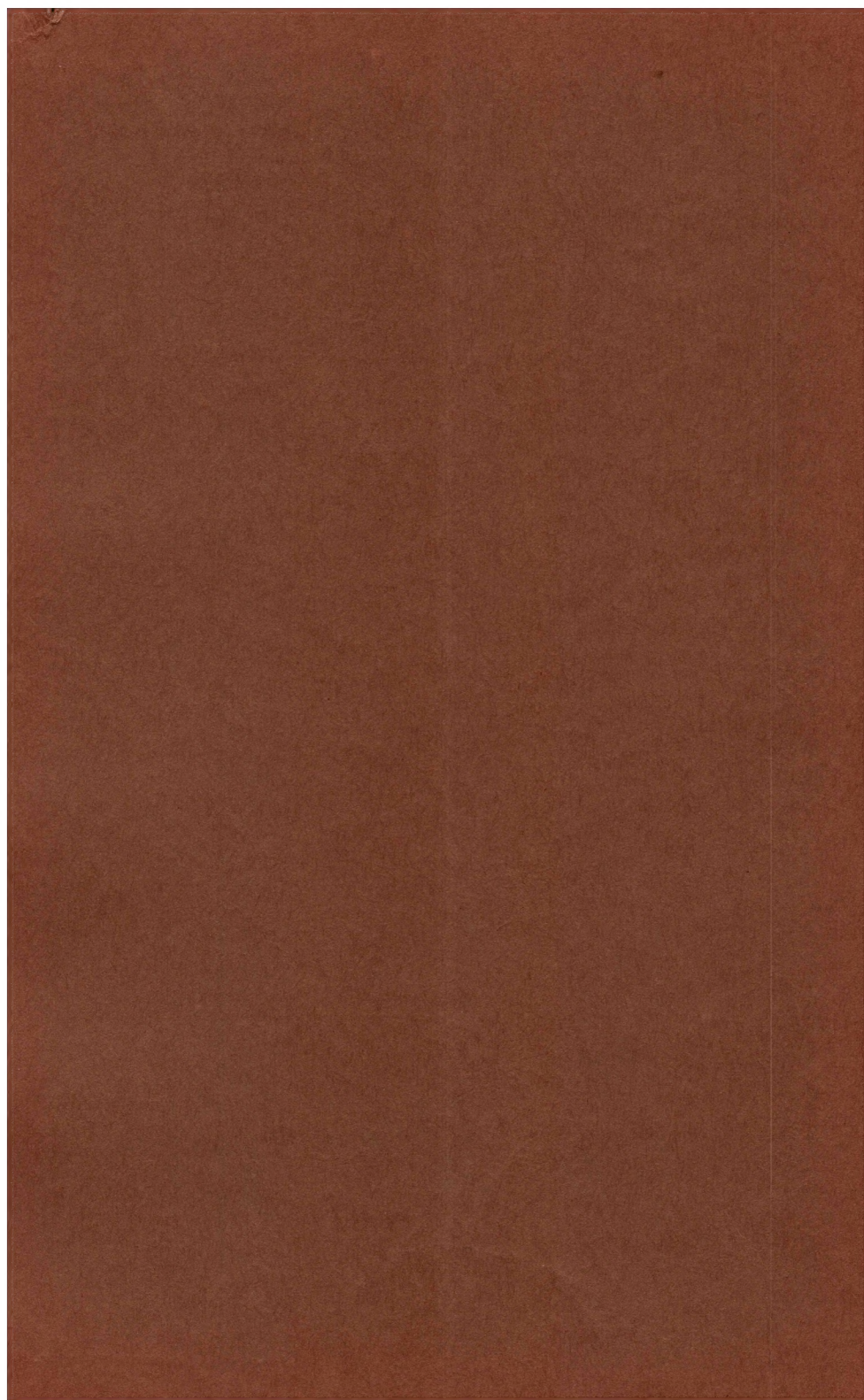
EXPLANATORY NOTE

The preceding *Minutes of Coetus and Synod from 1791 to 1816* were printed in the *German Reformed Messenger* in 1854 beginning with the issue dated July 12th where the following statement is found:

"According to promise, we commence this week to publish a translation of the unpublished Minutes of the Synod of the German Reformed Church, as far back as these records have been preserved. We purpose making the translation as literal as possible, and shall also strike off several hundred copies in book form. Doubtless many of the ministry and members of the Church will desire to have them in a more permanent form than that of a newspaper; and it is to meet the wishes of such, that we have concluded to publish them in a volume. We will be glad to receive orders for them, which also shall be promptly filled."—Editors of the *Messenger*.

Very few of these copies, in book form, can now be located. Dr. J. M. S. Isenberg presented a typewritten copy of the Minutes to Synod in 1928, the gift of Dr. Henry T. Spangler. This copy was compared with the translation as found in the *Messenger* in 1854 and with the pamphlet copy now in the possession of the Stated Clerk. All of them were found to be virtually identical. The Minutes as now reprinted have been copied from the aforementioned pamphlet copy and are here included in accordance with the instruction of the Reverend Eastern Synod.

J. RAUCH STEIN, *Stated Clerk.*



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